

And everyone did what was right in their own eyes. Sound familiar? Does it sound like what is going on in our world today?

Someone might ask, “Why would you want to study a book like Judges?” Why? To keep us from getting apathetic in a world that has decided to do its own thing. We are called to live according to what is right and good - right and good in God’s eyes - not our own!

DAY ONE

As we approach the book of Judges, we will be doing things a bit differently than most studies. Judges is a historical book and not a letter; therefore, we need to use different study methods.

Judges was written in an age of apathy, apostasy, and anarchy - like today. During that time God raised up common men and women whom He would use to accomplish His purpose to further His kingdom.

This is a study of great importance because it shows us how to live our lives in times of oppression and spiritual darkness. Because of the power this study has to change your life, the enemy, Satan, will do all he can to keep you from studying Judges. You will need to commit yourself, discipline yourself to make this a priority in your life because you are about to encroach on Satan’s territory.

1. Today your job is simple. Read Judges 1-10. Grab a cup of tea, make yourself comfortable, and read these ten chapters like you would a good book. It is fascinating and certainly doesn’t lack for action! For those of you who would rather listen, you can pull up biblegateway.com, pick the NASB (1995 version), type in Judges 1, and click on the speaker and it should say “listen.” If you let it play, it will play right through the entire book. Jot down anything that may have caught your attention.

DAY TWO

1. Today you are going to finish reading/listening to Judges. Read chapters 11-21.
2. Answer these couple of questions just from what you remember. This is not the time to look things up and dig for answers. That will come later. Just briefly state your observations.

a) What is the atmosphere of the times covered in Judges?

b) How did you feel as you finished the book and why?

c) How would you describe Israel's spiritual condition during this time period?

DAY THREE

Today, you are going to be looking for the occasion or setting of the book of Judges. You will be able to do this by looking at certain sections of the book instead of the book as a whole.

1. Begin your time in prayer. This is a habit that you want to form in your Christian walk. You are approaching the Word which God has given you, and only God, through the Holy Spirit can lead you into truth and give you understanding. Ask Him to open your eyes of understanding.
2. Read the first three chapters of Judges. As you do, watch for repeated phrases. These are going to be key to helping us understand the time period of the Judges. List those phrases below and mark them on your Observation Worksheets by underlining them or boxing them. Use a different color and marking for each of the different phrases so they will stand out to you in the future.
3. Read through Judges 2 once again. What is the significance of the judges at this point in Israel's history?
4. Now read the last five chapters, Judges 17-21. Note and mark any repeated phrases in these chapters as well. If there is a phrase that was used in the first three chapters, mark it in the same way. If not, use different colors and markings for these new words or phrases. List the words and phrases you found below.
5. Go back and look at Judges 17-21 once again. There are only a couple of people who are named, and a couple of specific tribes of Israel which are mentioned. Write down the names and the tribes (don't get tribes confused with cities!).

Names

Tribes

6. By looking at the people who are mentioned (one in particular), does that help determine the timing of these chapters?

7. Do you remember anything significant about any of the tribes that are mentioned?

8. At this point in time, can you find a key verse that best describes the times of the judges?

9. Knowing that you haven't studied anything in depth yet, can you determine why God chose to include this book in His Word?

DAY FOUR

Today we are going to work on a list of all the judges of Israel, beginning and ending with ones that may be surprising to you.

1. Read Exodus 18:13, 17-26. Who was the first one to act as a judge of Israel?

2. Moses was the judge of Israel, but there were judges under him which he oversaw, Now look at Deuteronomy 31:1-8; 34:9 and Joshua 23:1-13. Who was appointed to take Moses place and his position - including that of judge?

3. How long did Joshua hold the position of judge and of captain of the army? Are you looking for the number of years in Judges? Try Judges 2:8. What do you learn about Joshua from this passage?
 - a. What else can we learn about Joshua's age? How long did they wander around the wilderness? If you need help, read Numbers 14:33-34
 - b. How old was Joshua when he came out of Egypt? This one is a little harder to answer, but I believe that you can still answer it. Let's begin with a little culture. A boy was considered a man at 20 years old (when they were able to fight). Read Exodus 33:11. What was Joshua called?
 - c. Read Exodus 17:9-13. How old would Joshua had to have been?
 - d. Now we are going to turn to the account of the 12 who were chosen to spy out the land. Let's see what information we can glean from that. Read Numbers 14:20-25 and answer the following questions.
 - 1) Read 22-23 and record who would by no means see the land.
 - 2) Who is the exception?
 - 3) Why do you think that Joshua isn't mentioned?
 - e. Read Numbers 14:26-35. Answer these questions.
 - 1) According to verse 29, what would happen and to whom?
 - 2) Who are the exceptions mentioned in verse 30?
 - f. Thinking about all you have studied, can you account for why Joshua may not have been included in Numbers 14:20-25, but was included in verses 26-35?
 - g. How old do you think Joshua was when he left Egypt?
 - h. How old would that have made him when he took up leadership after Moses?
 - i. How many years did Joshua act as judge and captain of Israel's army before he died?

4. Moses was the first judge and Joshua was the second because there was no king in Israel. Judges 2:6-10 tells us that Joshua and all his generation died and another generation arose that did not know the Lord. What a sad statement! Something that we will be exploring in more depth when we examine this book chapter by chapter. Beginning in chapter three, we start learning about the judges that God raised up to deliver His people. Skim the rest of the book and record these judges in the order in which they occur. There should be 13. Include chapter(s) and verses of their reign.

5. Were there any judges after this list? Read the following passages and record what you learn.

a) I Samuel 4:18

b) I Samuel 7:6, 15-16

DAY FIVE

As I stated in day one, Judges is a historical book. Therefore, it would be good to have an understanding of where it fits in to Israel's history.

1. Look at the Observation Worksheets that have been provided. On OWS 59 you will find an Old Testament History chart. Today we are going to do a bit of investigation to see if we can come to an understanding of when exactly the time of the judges occurs and how long it lasts. Hopefully this will be a time of delightful discovery as we wrestle with the timing of events.
2. Across the top of this chart you will see dates. Remember that when you are looking at dates that are BC (Before Christ), the numbers go backwards. Don't let that confuse you.
3. The next row shows Israel's relationship to the Promised Land - coming to it, dwelling in, being driven out of it, and returning once again.
4. The row that goes through the middle of the chart shows major events in Israel's history - creation, the flood, Babel, Abraham and his descendants, bondage in Egypt, the time of the judges, the united kingdom and then the divided kingdom of Israel, captivity, and restoration.
 - a. The first kings and their dates are shown above the united kingdom of Israel.
 - b. When Israel divided, the chart shows the Northern kingdom above and southern below.
 - c. The prophets who were sent to the northern kingdom were Jonah, Amos, and Hosea. This kingdom was brought to an end by the Assyrian Empire in 722 BC.
 - d. The southern kingdom, Judah, was sent Obadiah, Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, Nahum, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk. This kingdom was brought to an end by Babylon in 586 BC.
 - e. Ezekiel and Daniel prophesied during the time of this captivity.
 - f. After a 70 year captivity, the captives were allowed to return to their land, led by Ezra and Nehemiah and the prophets Haggai and Zechariah.

5. The next row on the chart show the Bible divisions of the Old Testament. The Pentateuch is also known as the Law. Below that section tells you the books of the Bible that fall into that section. The next section of books makes up the History portion of the Old Testament. Poetry and Prophets were written in that time period as well. Below the Line you can see the books that make up this section of your Bible. You can see the cloud on either side of these boxes where it shows the beginning and the end of the Old Testament.
6. Looking at the right side of the chart, you will see the book of Malachi which was written right before the 400 silent years. This was the last book written in the Old Testament. God spoke through the prophets long ago, but in the last days (that began with the birth of Jesus) He has spoken to us in His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2; John 1:1-14). The coming of the Law through Moses was the start of the Old Covenant, the Covenant of Law, when the Son came, He inaugurated a New Covenant in His blood (I Corinthians 11:25; II Corinthians 3:6; Hebrews 12:24; Hebrews 8-10). If you didn't take time to read these passages, please do. It is important to understand the timing of these events, so you can accurately communicate God's truths to others.
7. One more assignment for the day. When we get into the timing of the judges there is much discrepancy when you read the commentators. Read I Kings 6:1. We are given a time period between the Exodus and the beginning of the construction of the temple. Using what you have learned this week as well as the "Old Testament History," let's see if we can get an idea of how long the time of the judges lasted.
 - a. Through our studies, we have concluded that the Exodus occurred around 1445 BC.
 - b. How many years did Moses and Joshua lead the people?
 - c. Subtract these two numbers and what do you get for a year?
 - d. This would have been the beginning of the book of Judges and time of the Judges (including Eli and Samuel) ends with the crowning of the first king which was in 1051 BC.
 - e. Subtract the year from letter "c" and 1051 and you should have the approximate time span of the book of the Judges.

We laid a lot of ground work this week that should help us as we study. This is going to be a great study, so hang in there and be faithful. You will be blessed if you do!

Apathy, the enemy of progress. As a child of the King, we are to be busily participating in building His kingdom. People need to know that judgment is coming. They need to know that there are eternal consequences to the decisions that they make every day. There should be an urgency to proclaim the ONLY way of salvation as our time on this earth is shorter every day. Are you concerned about peoples' souls? Do you look forward every day to speaking the truth of God's Word to anyone who will listen? Or are you apathetic - lack enthusiasm, interest, or concern?

Learn from the judges. May it light a fire in your heart to reach out to the dying world around you.

DAY ONE

Today you are going to read through Judges 1-5 with the chart on page 11 entitled "Judges Worksheet - Main Ideas and Chapter Titles." As you read, jot down the main ideas in the appropriate spaces. When you are done reading each chapter, try to condense the main idea of the chapter into a chapter title. Do this work in pencil in case you want to change it as you study in more depth. Chapter titles ideally should be four to five words in length making it easy to remember, but if you go over that, don't be concerned. Just do your best

Just as a reminder, you are still working on an overview. Don't make more of this than need be. A quick read, jotting down main ideas, coming up with a title that summarizes the chapter, and then on to the next chapter.

DAY TWO

Today we will do the same thing as yesterday, this time reading Judges 6-10.

DAY THREE

Today, work on Judges 11-16.

DAY FOUR

Let's finish it off with Judges 17-21.

DAY FIVE

1. Start off today by transferring your chapter titles over on to the “Judges At A Glance Chart” on page 12. Continue to use pencil so you can erase it later if you come up with something you like better. This will serve as a good review of what you covered over the last couple of days. As you write the chapter titles, try to think through what happened in each chapter.
2. You will see that the “Judges At A Glance Chart” has several parts. Your job today is to complete that chart to the best of your ability. We will go over this in class, so don’t get frustrated if you don’t get it. Again, do your best!
 - a. On the left side of the chart it asks for a key verse, key phrases, and the time period covered in the book of Judges. These were all things you should have found last week. Copy your information onto the chart.
 - b. On the right side of the chart you are asked for a Key Verse for the book of Judges. If you found one that sums up the time of the judges, record it here.
 - c. There is a column to record what people group was oppressing Israel in that particular verse. You may have more than one in a chapter, or the same oppressor’s story may cover several chapters. You can draw a line in to separate one from the other.
 - d. The next column allows you to record the Judge that ruled at that particular time. Fill that in, and again, use lines to indicate where one judge’s life stops and another starts.
3. Your last assignment is to think about these questions to help you determine where segment divisions are in this book. Record these in the appropriate column.
 - a. Briefly glance through chapters 1 and 2 and see how they relate to each other. Do they cover the same or different information? Do you want to label that as one or two segment divisions on your chart? As you make segment divisions label what is in each section.
 - b. What do chapters 3-16 have in common? Would you put that in one section? What would you call it?
 - c. What do you think about chapters 17-21? How would you describe those chapters? What do they have in common and how do they compare to the rest of the book?
4. Look at your “Judges At A Glance Chart.” Can you see the flow of the book? Do you feel comfortable with how the book is put together? Next week you will begin to dive deeper and see what treasures you can find.

Judges Worksheet - Main Ideas and Chapter Titles

Main Events of Chapter	Chapter	Chapter Title
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
	7	
	8	
	9	
	10	
	11	
	12	
	13	
	14	
	15	
	16	
	17	
	18	
	19	
	20	
	21	

Judges At a Glance Chart

Segment Divisions	Oppressors	Judges	Chapter Title
			1
			2
			3
			4
			5
			6
			7
			8
			9
			10
			11
			12
			13
			14
			15
			16
			17
			18
			19
			20
			21

Time Period Covered:

Key Verse:

Key Phrases:

Book Title:

God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). The way that God relates to Israel in the Old Testament corresponds to the relationship between Jesus and the church. God called the people to obedience if they desired to live in the Promised Land, the land flowing with milk and honey. Today, believers are called to live in obedience if they desire to enter the Promised Land, the kingdom of God. Many will say “Lord, Lord we prophesied in Your name, cast out demons, and performed miracles in Your name” and He will say depart from Me, I never knew you!” (Loose translation from Matthew 7:21-23). Let’s put that in today’s “churchese.” I went to church; I gave money; I raised my hand; I walked the aisle; I cried and wept; I had an emotional experience. Jesus’ response was only “. . . he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.” That is a habitual, continual lifestyle of obedience (present tense in the Greek). That isn’t a once in a while I do the right things. He was talking about living every day with every word, action, and thought being brought into submission to God. This is the sanctified life, a life of dying to self and living for Christ. Sure we are going to stumble and fall, but that should be the exception and not the norm! How do I know that? Take the time to read Matthew 7:13-29.

Having a true faith in Jesus Christ demands by the definition of the word a walk of obedience to the One you call Lord (Master). We cannot choose to walk in any way we desire without suffering the consequences of sin; hence, Jesus says depart from Me, and many who profess to be Christians will spend eternity in hell.

The book of Judges will show us what happens when we try to do what is right in our own eyes, instead of being obedient to the commands of the Father. Let us be warned - it is important to not take God’s grace for granted. Jude 4 tells us that those who take God’s grace for granted turn God’s grace into licentiousness (a license to sin - it’s okay to act like this because God will forgive me), and they are described as ungodly (without God) and denying with their lives the Lord whom they call Master.

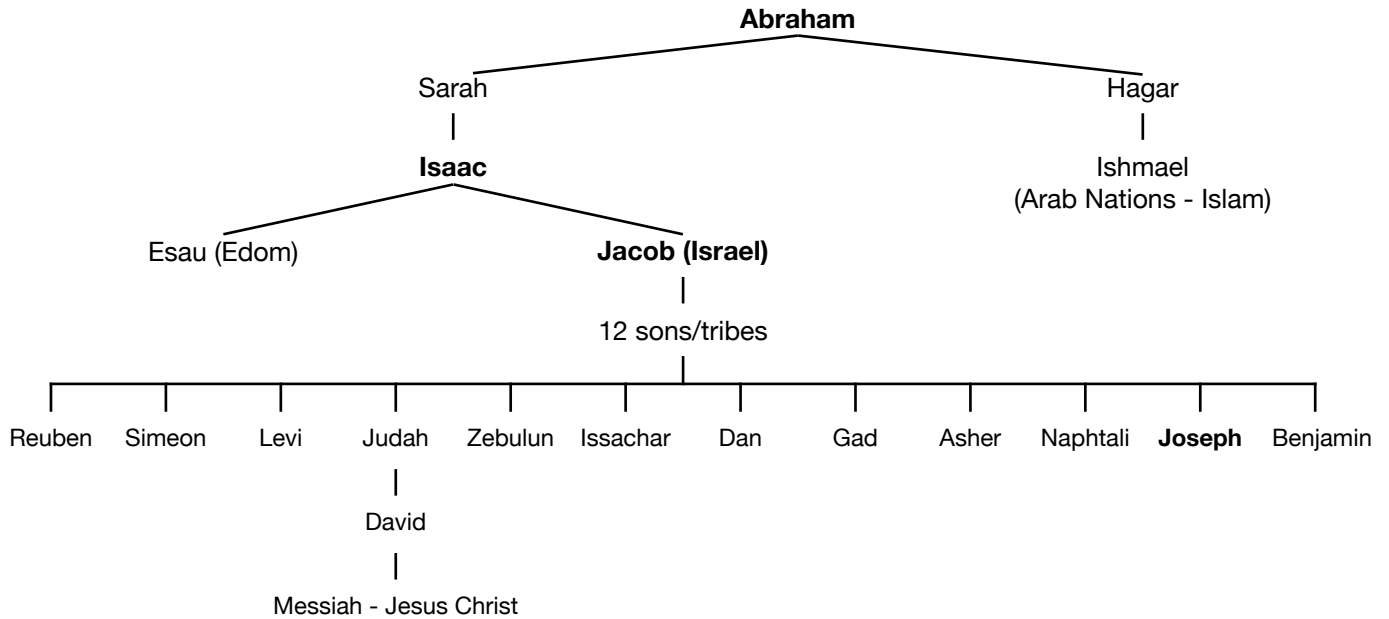
Judges will teach you the importance of treating God as holy! I Corinthians 10:11-12 says, “Now these things happened to them (Israel) as an example, for they were written for our (the church’s) instruction . . . Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.”

DAY ONE

Over the past two weeks, you have been using a timeline and a map to better acquaint you with the time period of the book of Judges. This week it is time to walk you through the Bible, so you can see Israel’s history for yourself. Having educated people give you a hand now and then is great, but don’t you want this precious knowledge for yourself? Let’s dig in and become familiar with God’s promises for Israel.

1. God created man and the world in which He placed him. He specifically says that He created them male and female (almost like He knew at some point in time mankind might become confused about what male and female are), and He placed them in a beautiful garden in a perfect world. God created Adam and Eve to worship Him, fellowship with Him, and be His representatives in the world, bringing Him glory in every word, deed, and thought. (Genesis 1-2). By the way, this is the same reason He made you.
2. Adam and Eve were given a choice every day. They were told not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil that was in the middle of the garden. Every day as they passed that tree they had a choice. Obey or not! As you walk in your garden (life) are you going to choose to live in obedience to Him or are you going to decide that you are going to listen to the father of lies instead? You know how the story ends. They chose to listen to Satan's lies and sin entered the world. That sin nature was then passed on to every generation thereafter.
3. By Genesis 6, the Bible says, ". . . that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Genesis 6:5). Sin had become so rampant that the righteous Judge had to bring judgment on an unrighteous world. He would blot out man that He created with a flood, but He would bring Noah and his family safely through because Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. He was someone who chose obedience to God.
4. As Noah's family came off the ark, they were given instructions to be fruitful and multiply and populate the earth abundantly. In other words spread across the world and fill the earth with My glory. What did they do instead? Generation after generation the sin permeated the culture and mankind opted to unite themselves together against God and build a city greater than anything that had every been created to prove just how great they had become. They didn't need God because in their minds, they were gods! God reached down into that sinful mass of people and brought confusion into their midst. They tried to speak to one another, but yet could not understand the person next to them. When that event occurred at the Tower of Babel, the people then dispersed into their own little groups which moved throughout the world, beginning the formation of the nations, peoples, and tongues.
5. God looked down into that multitude of nations and chose one of those nations to be His. That nation would bring God's glory to the world. He found a man who would follow Him. This man's name was Abram from Ur of the Chaldeans (Babylonians). God called Abram (so to be renamed Abraham) and this was the beginning of the nation of Israel. These were to be His people and He would be their God.
6. When God first appeared to Abram, He told him of things that would happen in the future. God said that Abram would be blessed and through Him the whole world would also be blessed. Abram didn't understand the process, but he had faith in the promise and knew that God would do as He had said. Let's look at this promise.

7. Let's take a look at one more thing before we call it a day. These are the descendants that come from Abraham that were promised the land of Canaan. Many times we will see the "fathers" mentioned as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.



8. The family tree shows the descendants that are going to make up the tribes of Israel. Joseph is one of twelve brothers - Daddy's favorite. His brothers sold him into slavery, and he was taken to Egypt. Through a series of miraculous events, Joseph ends up as second in command of the most powerful nation of its time. He told his brothers in Genesis 50:20 ". . . you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive." Joseph invites his family to come and remain in Egypt during the famine and there they stay. 70 people made up Israel when they travel down to Egypt (Genesis 46:27), but it won't stay that way for long.

DAY TWO

Yesterday we left the account of the nation of Israel with 70 persons traveling to Egypt under Joseph's care. Do they live happily ever after in the land of Egypt? Hardly!

1. When God was making His covenant with Abraham, he told him something about the future. Read Genesis 15:13 once again. Record what will happen to Israel, Abraham's descendants.
2. Joseph died before they ever got to the Promised Land, but he believed that God's promise was true. Read Genesis 50:22-26. Record what happened and what Joseph knew.
3. Now read Exodus 1 and record what happened and when.
4. This begins the fulfillment of the promise made in Genesis 15:13. How long were they going to be oppressed in that land?
5. Read Exodus 2 and 3. Who did God raise up to end this bondage and what promises did He make regarding the land?

DAY THREE

Moses was raised up to be Israel's deliver. After 400 years of bondage to Egypt, God was ready to bring the people into the land that He had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Again through the mighty hand of God, the people were delivered from Egypt, 603,550 numbered men of war. If we guesstimate that each of these men was married and had two children, a conservative estimate would be about 2,500,000 people left Egypt with Moses. From 70 to 2,500,000, you have to see that God was blessing these people!

To grow from a large family to a large nation, certain principles needed to be established. According to God's command, Moses brought them back to the mountain of Horeb in the land of Midian where God first appeared to him (Exodus 3:12). Here, at this mountain, God gives them the laws of this new nation. He teaches them how to worship Him, the one true God of heaven and earth - Jehovah. God sanctifies them, consecrates them, and sets them apart from other nations. They were not to look, act, talk, or think like the other nations. They would be His people and He would be their God. Now that they were established as a nation, it was time to go and claim that land that has been promised to them (through Abraham) for about 500 years.

Moses brings them to the southern border of the Promised Land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and they are going to send in 12 spies to spy out this promised land.

1. Read Numbers 13:1-24 and then answer the following questions.

a. Who were chosen to go spy out the land?

b. What were they supposed to find out?

c. Where did they go? Use your maps to help you find where they stayed and where they spied.

2. Now let's continue with the story in Numbers 13:25-14:10. Answer these questions.

a. What did they see when they spied out the land?

b. What kind of report did they give to the people?

c. Were all the spies in agreement with what should be done?

d. What effect did this have on the people of Israel? What were their fears?

e. How did the people of Israel feel about the two spies who had a differing viewpoint? Does that sound like the world we live in today?

f. Now put yourselves in their position. What are they struggling with? What was their problem? Have you found yourself in a similar predicament?

3. Before you start this part of the assignment, read all the questions below so you don't repeat your answers. Then continue reading the account in Numbers 14:11-45.

a. How did God feel about Israel's response? What did He want to do? Why?

b. How did Moses respond to this and why? Was it motivated by selfish desires?

c. What was God's ultimate decision on dealing with these people. Be thorough!

d. How did the children of Israel feel about God's discipline? What was their response?

e. What was Moses's warning?

f. What is the outcome of their bad decision?

4. One last question for today. If we are to learn from the examples in the Old Testament Scriptures, what should this teach us about the way we live our lives before God?

DAY FOUR

Instead of going into the promised land and occupying the land flowing with milk and honey, they are turned out into the wilderness to wander another 38+ years for a total of 40 years in the wilderness. If you follow the account of Israel's wanderings, you will find it replete with grumbling and complaining. Their lack of faith and trust in God is sometimes staggering. By the end of the 40 years, Moses has had quiet enough! In Numbers 20:1-13, by the waters of Meribah, Moses snapped. In his anger against the people, he called them a bunch of rebels and then proceeded to rebel against God himself and strike the rock twice instead of speaking to the rock. He did not treat God as holy so as to obey Him completely and was thus banned from entering the Promised Land, both he and Aaron. Partial obedience is not obedience; it is rebellion, and uncontrolled anger has no place in our lives. We are called to be holy as He is holy, be perfect as He is perfect. We are not to take these verses lightly. To think that it is okay to do these things is to treat God's grace as licentiousness. If we are not grieved by our sins, then we don't comprehend the price that was paid for those sins!

Now we come to the book of Deuteronomy. Moses can't go into the land with them so he is giving instructions to the nation of Israel before they enter the land. Let's pick up the story there.

1. In Deuteronomy 1-6, Moses rehearses all that God did for the children of Israel since leaving Egypt. Then you come to chapter 7 where Moses begins telling them of God's instructions for entering the land. Read through chapter 7 and fill in the chart below.

God's Specific Instructions As They Enter Land	What God Promises To Do on Israel's Behalf	Conditions of God's Promises

2. What do you learn about the importance of obedience in the life of a believer?

3. Read Exodus 23:20-33.

a. These words were written almost 40 years prior to Deuteronomy 7. How do these two passages compare?

b. What were the specific instructions given to the Israelites?

4. Read Deuteronomy 9:1-3. Watch what God is promising to do for His people. Record what you learn.

5. Just for the sake of making sure you don't miss this, what was Israel's relationship to the people of the land supposed to look like? What were they supposed to do? What were they not supposed to do?

6. At the end of Moses's instructions to the nation of Israel, Moses goes up Mount Nebo and there he dies. Read this account in Deuteronomy 34. Record what you learn, specifically the changes that would take place after his death.

7. When Moses died, Joshua became his successor. Joshua would be the one that would take the people into the land of Canaan. Moses led them out of slavery in Egypt to the border of the Promised Land (twice), and now it is Joshua's turn to lead this new nation into their land. Read Joshua 1:1-9 and answer the following questions.
 - a. What river did they need to cross?

 - b. What was God's promise to Joshua regarding the possession of the land?

 - c. Was this promise new? When did it first come up in Scripture and to whom?

 - d. What were God's instructions to Joshua? What was he to do?

DAY FIVE

Joshua leads the people into the land of Canaan and he proceeds to divide up the land among the twelve tribes of Israel. Refer to your map from your Observation Worksheets on page 62 for a quick reference to see where each of the twelve tribes settled (or tried to settle).

Before we start settling in for our study, there is one more thing you need to understand as we look at these passages dealing with land allotments and possessing the land.

1. Remember that there were 12 sons of Jacob, but there were four mothers. Jacob's love was Rachel. He was tricked into marrying her sister Leah. Jacob ends up with both Leah and Rachel for wives and each of them have maids that they bring along. Because of Jacob's love for Rachel, God hears the prayers of a lonely Leah who has a husband that doesn't love her. God blesses her and gives her children while Rachel remains barren, and the baby wars begin. Leah conceives and gives birth to four sons, each time hoping that she would receive some notice from Jacob. Rachel gives Bilhah, her maid, to Jacob and asks that she bears children in her place. Bilhah gives birth to 2 sons. Leah then gives Jacob her maid, Zilpah, who bears two more sons. God once more opens Leah's womb and she gives birth to two more sons and a daughter. Finally, Rachel gives birth to Joseph and years later has Benjamin and dies in childbirth. Here is a list of the sons in order of their birth and by mother's name.

<u>Leah</u>	<u>Bilhah</u>	<u>Zilpah</u>	<u>Rachel</u>
Reuben			
Simeon			
Levi			
Judah			
	Dan		
	Naphtali		
		Gad	
		Asher	
Issachar			
Zebulun			
			Joseph
			Benjamin

2. These are the tribes that make up the nation of Israel. Compare the names with the map which shows the distribution of the land. Put a check mark next to each one that you see on the map.
 - a. Whose names doesn't show up on the map? Do you know why?

 - b. Whose names are on the map and not on your list? Do you know why?

3. Did you notice that Levi and Joseph aren't on your map but Manasseh and Ephraim are? Is the Bible wrong? Does it contradict itself? In the culture at that time, the first son gets a double portion of the inheritance. Abraham had two sons, but Isaac was the son of promise, not Ishmael. Isaac received the blessing from his father and the covenant with all its promises passed through him and not his older brother Ishmael. Remember that Jacob was tricked into marrying Leah. The wife he wanted was Rachel. In his mind, his firstborn would come through her and that would be Joseph. Joseph received a double portion of the land, but it didn't come through Joseph but through Joseph's two sons - Ephraim and Manasseh (whose names appear on the map). But why didn't Levi get land? Levi was the tribe that was used in God's service. They were given 48 cities with their pasturelands spread throughout the land. Levi was called out of the sons of Israel to be holy and separate for God, so they were treated differently than the other tribes, and they were blessed abundantly because of the work they were called to do.

4. At the end of Joshua's life, he spoke to the children of Israel just as Moses had. Let's see what Joshua had to say to the people. Read Joshua 23 and carefully and thoroughly answer the following questions.
 - a. What was Joshua's warning to the children of Israel? List them point by point.

- b. What did Joshua say about God's words to Israel? Look at verses 14-16.
- c. According to Joshua (and Moses before him) what were the consequences of disobedience?
- d. Do you remember seeing any of those consequences in the first three chapters of Judges? If not quickly skim those chapters and see if you find any.
- e. In Joshua 23:11, Joshua called the people to love the Lord their God. How do you think that is manifested in their lives as well as yours? In other words, what would they (you) do if they truly loved the Lord?
- f. Read John 14:15, 21-24. According to these verses, how is love manifested?

5. Jesus says, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." As we discussed earlier in this lesson, partial obedience is not obedience; it is rebellion. So to end this day and this week, let's look at one more passage to drive that point home. Read I Samuel 15 and answer these questions.
- a. What were God's instructions to Saul regarding Amalek?
 - b. Was Saul's obedience complete or incomplete? Why?
 - c. When Samuel confronted Saul in 15:12-21, how did Saul respond?
 - d. According to verses 22-23, what does God's Word teach about obedience and rebellion?
 - e. In verses 24-26, what was Saul's response to God's word and what was God's response to Saul's response?
 - f. Did Saul ever fully confess his sin? What was the result of that?
 - g. What happened to Agag, the king whom Saul spared?

How important is complete obedience to God? It means everything! Next week we will begin looking at what happens in the lives and communities of God's people who have decided they don't need to fully obey God. Welcome to Judges 1! Welcome to our world today!

Incomplete obedience, unbelief, and indifference had saturated the nation of Israel. Last week we saw where that led, even into the time of the kings. Sins continued to multiply and man justified them. Yes, I know I didn't do exactly as I was supposed to do, but . . .

Several times in John 14:15-31 Jesus said that if we love Him we will keep His commandments. A life of love for our Savior is lived out as a life of obedience to His Word - complete surrender to Him.

How had the people slipped so far from a life of obedience and victory under Joshua to a life of justifying sin and defeat in one generation? Those who don't study history are doomed to repeat it. Here we stand today looking much like the times of the judges. Let us learn so we don't repeat their mistakes.

DAY ONE AND DAY TWO

1. Last week you read Joshua 1:1-9 and Joshua 24. Let's look at a couple of things that we learned from those passages.
 - a. Joshua was told to take the people across the Jordan to the land that God had given them. It was already there and ready to be possessed (1:2-4).
 - b. No man will be able to stand before them all the days of their lives (1:5).
 - c. They were called to be strong and courageous (1:6-7, 9).
 - d. They were to be careful to obey the law completely, not to turn aside, so that they would have success wherever they went (1:7-8).
 - e. They were to fear the Lord, serve Him, and turn away from the gods of the land (24:14).
 - f. The people declared that they would not forsake the Lord and serve other gods (24:16).
 - g. Joshua assured the people that God is a jealous God and if they turn to and serve foreign gods, He will turn on them and do them harm. He called the people to put away the foreign gods that were in their midst and turn their hearts to God and then he dismissed the people to claim their inheritance (24:19-28). They needed to go in and take their land, driving out the people who lived there, claiming their God-given possession.
 - h. Joshua died, and they bury him with the bones of Joseph, and Eleazar in various parts of Ephraim's territory (24:29-33).

2. Now we turn to the book of Judges. In our studies we have concluded that Judges picks up Israel's history after Joshua died and carries us through the next 300 years.
3. Let's start by completing your Observation Worksheets on Judges 1. If you are unsure of how to go about that, I will lead you through it step by step. Just work on one step at a time. Remember that you have two days to complete this assignment. Don't rush it.
 - a. Begin your time with prayer. Ask God to open your eyes of understanding and show you His truths and how to apply them to your life.
 - b. Read the chapter straight through. Don't stop to think or mark at this point.
 - c. Read through the chapter again and mark key phrases that you may have missed the first time through in week one. Also, take note as to whether there are any key words or phrases in this chapter. If so mark them in a specific way.
 - d. Make a list of what you learn about these words in the margin on your Observation Worksheet. We are not writing them on a separate paper like we do in other studies, because this isn't something that runs through the entire book. Studying a book of history is different than studying one of the epistles (letters).
 - e. Read through the chapter again. Have you marked any mentions of God? If not, take time to mark them now. Don't forget any pronouns or synonyms that refer to God.
 - f. Look for and mark geographical locations. I use a green compass over the place. Look at the two maps in your OWS section and see how many of those places you can locate.
 - g. Are there people mentioned in this chapter? If so, mark each one in a distinct way. Make a note in the margins about what you learn about each person.
 - h. Look for and mark instructions. I underline mine in orange. Look for specific "do this" commands. Then make a list of instructions on a separate paper.
 - i. Look for and mark warnings. I put my warnings in a black box. Make a list of the warnings you have marked. I put them on the opposite side of the paper as my instructions.
 - j. In each chapter, there are several paragraphs. These paragraphs are distinguished by vertical lines separating two verses. Read through the chapter and summarize the paragraph by giving it a paragraph title. Follow the same procedure as you did for chapter titles last week.

DAY THREE

Today we start looking into Judges 1 in more detail.

1. Read through Judges 1 again. As concisely as you can, state the problem you see with the Israelite people.
2. Remembering all the history that you have learned up to this point, what do you think caused this problem? Why have they gotten to this point?
3. In Judges 1:1-7, you read of an encounter with the Canaanite and Perizzite people. What did they do to Adoni-bezek? Why do you think they did this? Do you think this action was right? What were they supposed to do to their enemies? Think through all that you have learned and make sure you answer all parts of this question.
4. Read through Judges 1:8-26. As you read through this passage, record the cities that were captured, who captured it, what you learn about that city, and then look at your maps and see if you can locate them. If you can, underline them on your map. There is more room on the next page to record your information.

5. Now look at Judges 1:27-36 and note who did not drive out the inhabitants and why. What did they do with the inhabitants that were left in the land?

6. You can see what your commentaries have to say about Judges 1.

DAY FOUR AND DAY FIVE

1. Complete your Observation Worksheet on Judges 2. Remember that step by step instructions were given in DAY ONE AND DAY TWO.
2. We have gone over this before, but for the sake of review, look for and record the steps of the cycle of sin that Israel goes through.
3. When did this begin? With what generation? Why did it happen?
4. Record your thoughts on Judges 2.

(over)

5. As you think through this chapter, can you see any pertinent applications?

“. . . and there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel.”

There are few today in our world, and even within the “church”, who truly know God, understand the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf, believe in salvation by faith alone, and living a lifestyle that manifests the working of God in their lives - walking in a manner worthy of Him. There are many who have (so they think) “accepted Jesus,” but the question is, has Jesus accepted them? Will He confess them before His Father in heaven (Matthew 10:32; Revelation 3:5), or will they fall into the Matthew 7:21-23 category where they call Him Lord, and He tells them to depart from Him, He never knew them?

How did we get to this point? Why does every generation seem to drift further away from God?

DAY ONE

Last week you should have completed your observation worksheet for Judges 2. This week you will dig in and search out the treasures that are contained in this passage.

1. Read through Judges 2 to begin this week’s study and refresh yourself on what you found last week.
2. As you look at chapter two, it is important to get to the root of the problem. The root of sin remains unchanged throughout the ages. Prayerfully read Judges 2:11-23 and record the reason for God’s displeasure and subsequent judgment. Remember you are looking for the root cause.
3. Read Revelation 2:1-7, the letter to the church of Ephesus and answer these questions.
 - a. What did Jesus have against this church?
 - b. What was the three-fold solution to the problem?

- c. How does that relate to the people of Israel at the time of the judges?

- d. How does that relate to us today?

4. How did the children of Israel get to this place? What led up to the problem? Think carefully. The answer is there.

5. Are there things that were said in chapter 1 that relate to the situation they are in in chapter 2? Read through Judges 1, searching for an answer.

6. Look at Deuteronomy 7:1-11. What were the people specifically told to do when they came into the promised land? Did they do it?

7. Can you see any relationship between their problems and your life?

DAY TWO

Today, you are going to begin pulling this apart verse by verse. Each section will bring a new challenge. Patience and persistence will open up this chapter. Let's begin.

1. Read Judges 2:1-5. "The angel of the Lord came up. . ." Who is the angel of the Lord?
 - a. Record what you learn about the angel of the Lord from these five verses.

 - b. Let's look at several other accounts with the "angel of the Lord." Record your observations.
 1. Genesis 16:7-14

 2. Genesis 18 (the whole chapter)

 3. Genesis 22:9-18

 4. Exodus 3:1-6

 5. Numbers 22:31-35, 38

- c. From these passages, who do you think the angel of the Lord is and why?
2. The angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal (just west of the Jordan near Jericho) to Bochim (most likely in the hill country of Ephraim).
- a. The people named the place Bochim. Answer the following questions.
1. What did God do for the people according to Judges 2:1?
 2. What were the people told to do according to verse 2?
 3. Did they obey?
 4. How did God respond to their disobedience in verse 3?
 5. What was the people's response?
 6. What does the word "Bochim" mean?
- b. So now let's take a look at what had happened in Gilgal.
1. Read Joshua 5:1-15. This is right before Israel would begin taking the land.
 2. Gilgal means "rolling away." God had rolled away the reproach of Israel. They were slaves, but now they were a nation entering into and taking their land. Record what you learn about this point in time in Israel's history. In other words what happened at Gilgal?

3. Did you catch the fact that God said that He would not break His covenant with the people of Israel? God had promised them the land. God had said He would drive out the inhabitants of the land before them. The people didn't obey, but God would still keep His word. Look at verse 3 and compare what Israel's life could have been to what it now will be because of disobedience?

4. The people went from Gilgal - a time of obedience and joyfulness to Bochim - a time of disobedience and sorrow (weeping). Do you see any application to your life today?

DAY THREE AND DAY FOUR

1. Begin your time of study in prayer. This should be a habit you are forming in your time of study. Every time we come to God's Word, if we allow Him, He will use the Scripture to transform your mind. Ask Him to open your mind of understanding and allow you to push aside any teaching that does not line up with His Word!

2. Read Judges 2:6-10. After you have read it, answer the following questions.
 - a. Where did the people go after Joshua dismissed them?

 - b. As the people entered their inheritance, there were still people of the nations inhabiting the land. Each tribe was responsible for going into their portion of the allotted land and drive out the remaining nations as God had commanded. How were the people described in verse 7?

 - c. Joshua and his generation die. What do you learn about the next generation?

3. It is said that it only takes one generation to completely lose information about something, and that includes faith. My grandparents' generation canned items from their gardens to preserve them for the winter. With refrigeration units and the advent of frozen foods, the art of canning has been lost. Today, many people don't know you can preserve your own foods, let alone have any idea of how to do it or what equipment is necessary. When information is not shared, it is lost. God had given the Israelites commands to keep this from happening to them. Read the following verses and record what you learn about preserving the knowledge of God.

a. Psalm 78:5-8

b. Proverbs 22:6

c. Deuteronomy 4:9-10

d. Deuteronomy 6:5-9

e. Deuteronomy 11:19

f. Joshua 4:4-7, 19-24

g. Ephesians 6:4

4. Every year, the Israelites observed three main feasts (mo'ed). These were God's appointed times where the people would gather together and celebrate the mighty acts of God. They acted as a signal to remind or warn the people of important events. These were times of rehearsals - to prepare for upcoming events or to recount the facts of events that have already taken place. Leviticus 23 lists the feasts, explains that they are God's appointed times, and shows them as a time of

remembering the events. You can read this chapter if you desire, but there is a chart at the end of this lesson, page 49, that you can study to become better acquainted with these feasts and the meanings of each. If the Jewish people celebrated these every year, it would give you, as a family, a chance to go over all that God had done for His people. How would that help prevent the losing of information over the years?

5. In Judges 2:10, it states that the people did not “know” God. Let’s stop for a minute to consider the word “know.” This is the type of word we run right over, thinking we understand the meaning instead of taking the time to ponder what is being said.
 - a. In the Hebrew, the Strong’s Concordance gives us a number of #H3045 - “yada” - which means to learn to know, to experience. This is experiential knowledge. Let me give you an example of this. Many years ago, Jim and I went to Bible college. Our sons were 9 and 6 at that time. There were many times that we literally had no money for food. We prayed for God’s provision. We learned to trust God to supply all our needs. We watched God at work as prayer after prayer was answered. Jim and I grew in our faith and our trust because we “KNEW” God’s power. We had experienced it first hand. Our boys were part of the prayers; they knew they couldn’t come home from school and get a snack because the cupboards were bare, but in their childlike hearts, they were sure that Mom and Dad wouldn’t let them starve. Jim and I knew and experienced God, the children heard about the experience, shrugged their shoulders, and went on with life. It was no big deal to them. They knew the story in their head and can tell you all about it today, 32 years later, but they didn’t experience the trial as we did.
 - b. This new generation may not have experienced all the occurrences in Egypt, in the 40 years of wondering, and the years of mighty victories as they took the land, but they knew in their head what had happened. These things have been recorded (facts put down on paper so we can know the truth about who God is and what He does) so that we can come to know who God is, and as we walk with Him each day, we begin to ‘know” Him experientially. Read the following verses and record why we have the written word of God.

1. I Corinthians 10:1-13

 2. Romans 15:4
- c. God's Word is truth. What do you learn in these verses?
1. John 17:17

 2. John 14:6

 3. Psalm 119:160

 4. Psalm 19:9

 5. Ephesians 1:13
- d. Read Romans 1:18-23.
1. What does every man know, and how?

 2. How do many respond to this knowledge?
- e. God gave each man an innate knowledge of Himself. It was placed inside our very being. Throughout Old Testament history, God sent His prophets to speak for Him and bring forth His truth. Then Jesus came to show the world who God is. Read Hebrews 1:1-4. What did Jesus accomplish on this earth?

f. Now we have been given God's Word. We have in our possession what the prophets spoke to the people of Israel. We have the life Jesus lived recorded for us in the Gospels. We have been given instructions on how we are to walk during our time here on earth in the book of Acts and the Epistles. We are told how the power of sin will once and for all be done away with when Jesus defeats Satan in the book of Revelation. Everything we need to know is recorded for us in the pages of God's Word. We can know God through His Word, and we can experience Him in our daily lives. We NEED nothing more. Now the choice is do I choose to believe and honor Him as God or reject Him? There are those who say they need to see more. In order to believe God, they need to have some kind of physical experience. What does God's Word say about that. Read the following passages and record what you learn.

1. Hebrews 11 - Record what you learn about faith. Did they have to see or experience or is it about trusting and doing?

2. Luke 16:27-31 - You may want to read the context (19-31)

3. Matthew 16:4 - Record what you learn and why you think this statement is made.

6. Look through the work that you have done for these last two days and try to sum up what you have learned. Make an outline, write a couple of paragraphs, illustrated it in some way, for there are many important truths to be grasped!

DAY FIVE

1. Read through Judges 2:11-19 several times.
2. This may seem repetitious, but there is a reason I am asking you to do this. Verse by verse, step by step, record the process that takes place. Don't miss a detail. What did the people do? How did they do it? How did God respond? How did the people respond. Don't miss a detail! This sets the stage for the remainder of the book.

3. Read Exodus 20:1-21. What commands were the people breaking and how were they breaking them?
4. There are many ways to define idolatry, but I have chosen to include what I believe to be a very good article called “The Root of Idolatry” written by John MacArthur and posted on Grace to You on June 3, 2019. This is on pages 50-52. Please take the time to read this thoroughly and record your insights below.
5. Examine your life. Is there something that takes priority over God in your life. Something that absorbs your time, energy, and resources that cause you to lose your focus on God?

6. Read Mark 10:17-27 and answer the following questions. I believe that this young man that came to Jesus was of the persuasion that he was a righteous man. When Jesus told him about the commandments, He skipped those pertaining to his relationship with God and went right to his relationship with the people and things around him. Many people think they are on good terms with God until it is pointed out to them how wrong the relationships in their lives are. Jesus skipped right to the last six commandments, but wait, He only covered five and not six. How curious.
- a. What was the young man's response to these five commands?
 - b. Which command had Jesus left out? (If you need help, look at Exodus 20.)
 - c. Jesus tells him that there is one thing he lacked. What was it and what was the young man to do?
 - d. He went away grieving? Why?
7. Read II Timothy 4:10. Demas had been a companion to Paul for many years. What happened at the end of their relationship? Why? How does this relate to idolatry?
8. Mark 4:1-20 contains the parable about the sower and the seed. Read the account and answer the following questions.
- a. What are the four kinds of soil? How are they described?

b. When giving the explanation of the parable, explain what happens in each soil.

c. Which one has to deal with idolatry? Why?

Next week we will finish up with our study on idolatry before moving into Judges 3. There is a lot to think through and apply to our own lives, is there not?

Spring Feasts

Nissan 14		Nissan 15		Sivan 7	
Festival of Passover		Festival of Passover		Festival of Pentecost	
Passover	Unleavened Bread	First Fruits		Pentecost	
Kill lamb, put blood on doorpost (Ex. 12:6-7; Mt. 26:17-27)	Purge all leaven (symbol of sin)	Wave offering of sheaf (Promise of harvest to come)		Wave offering of two loaves of leavened bread	
1st month 14th day (Lev. 23:5)	1st month, 15th day for 7 days (Lev. 23:6-8)	Day after Sabbath (Lev. 23:9-14)		50 days after firstfruits (Lev. 23:15-21)	
New Testament Fulfillment of Feasts		New Testament Fulfillment of Feasts		Holy Spirit	
Crucifixion	Burial	Resurrection			
Christ our Passover (Jn 18:28; I Cor 5:7)	Clean out old leaven - die to self (I Cor 5:7-8; Jn 6:47-52)	Christ has been raised - firstfruits (I Cor 15:20-23; James 1:18)		Counting the Omer	
				Counting begins the day after firstfruits	
				50 days brings you to Pentecost	

Fulfilled at Christ's First Coming Priestly role - Suffering Servant

Fall Feasts

Tishrei 1		Tishrei 10		Tishrei 15	
Festival of Booths		Festival of Booths		Festival of Booths	
Trumpets	Day of Atonement	Tabernacles			
Trumpet blown - a holy convocation (gathering)	Atonement made to cleanse (Zech 12:10; 13:1)	Harvest celebration - memorial of booths in wilderness (Is 65:17-19, Ez 43:7; Micah 4:1-3)			
7th month 1st day (Lev 23:23-25)	7th month 10th day (Lev. 23:26-32)	7th month 15th day for 7 days - 8th day Holy Convocation (Lev 23:33-44)			
New Testament Fulfillment of Feasts		New Testament Fulfillment of Feasts		Millennium	
Gathering? Rapture/* Jews	2nd Coming				
Caught together with Him in clouds (I Thes 4:13-18; Rev 4:1-6; I Cor 15:51-52; Phil 3:20-21)	Israel will repent and look to the Messiah (Mt 24:29-30; Rev 19:11-21; II Thes 1:5-10; Ro 11:25-27)			1,000 year reign (Rev 20:1-6; Rev 21:1-27; Rev 22:1-6; Jn 14:1-6)	
*Gathering Israel (Jer 32:37-41; Ez 36:24)					

Interlude Between Festivals

Church Age

Fulfilled at Christ's 2nd Coming Kingly role - Coming King

New Heaven
New Earth

New Jerusalem

God dwells (tabernacles) with man

(Rev 21:1-3)

The Root of Idolatry

by John MacArthur *Monday, June 3, 2019*

Idolatry is the product of rebellion, not confusion. While hearts and minds darkened by sin can't find God on their own apart from His Word, the apostle Paul makes it clear that the root of idolatry is man's rejection of creation's testimony to its Creator.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. (Romans 1:18-23)

The sinner's attempt to suppress the truth about God is foundational to all forms of idolatry and false religion. The unrepentant heart will subscribe to all sorts of farcical notions and obvious lies in the vain hope of shielding itself from the universe's Creator and Judge.

Paul understood the unbelief that undergirded the plethora of deities in Athens. The closing words of his sermon on Mars' Hill were a fatal shot at Athenian paganism, "Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man" (Acts 17:29). In other words, if God made us, God Himself must be greater than any man-made image. This is a critical point. It was as if Paul took one enormous philosophical sledgehammer and smashed all their idols. If God is really the sovereign, infinite being **even the poets acknowledged** He must be, we can't blasphemously reduce Him to a statue, a shrine, or any other graven image.

And while our culture isn't dominated by temples, idol worship, and polytheism the way the first-century world was, we are not immune to the threat of idolatry. John Calvin said, "The human mind is, so to speak, a perpetual forge of idols." Sinners still excel at erecting idols—today it simply takes place in individual hearts rather than the public square. It could be money, influence, career goals, athletic achievements, high-priced indulgences, or even another person—the vast galaxy of idols that rule in sinners' hearts today likely dwarfs the gods of the ancient world.

Even Christians can at times succumb to the rebellious tendency to create false gods—or to simply redefine the God of the Bible. Every time the church attempts to define God on its own terms—contrary to His self-revelation in Scripture—it bands together with the idolaters of Mars' Hill. That's a particular danger today, when so many in the church want to round off the sharp edges of God's attributes and reimagine Him as a kindly cosmic grandfather rather than a holy Judge. In that sense, there is very little difference between pretending God is not who He says He is, and worshiping the rocks and trees in a local park.

We need to understand that Paul's blunt exchange with the philosophers of Athens is far more than a historical account from a distant land. It's a timely warning about the futility of idolatry, and a call to repent of such foolishness while there is still time.

Paul's sermon on Mars' Hill comes to a climax with these urgent words of warning:

Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead. (Acts 17:30–31)

Paul's direct approach with his unbelieving audience defies a lot of modern conventional wisdom regarding cross-cultural ministry. He didn't pander to the false beliefs of his audience. He didn't try to accommodate the Epicureans by promising them a wonderful and pleasure-filled life. And he **didn't** attempt to win the Stoics by trying to make the gospel sound as much like their philosophy as possible. He called both groups and all other sinners present to repentance, referring to the golden age of Greek philosophy as "times of ignorance."

The word "ignorance" comes from the same Greek root as "unknown" in verse twenty-three. And the word "overlooked" comes from a word that means "to not interfere." It doesn't mean God disregarded or was indifferent to sinful idolatry. It means He chose not to intervene in judgment by wiping Athens off the face of the earth.

As Paul told them, however, God has appointed a day in which He *will* judge the world in righteousness. The agent of that judgment will be a Man whom He has ordained and given testimony to by raising Him from the dead. We know who that Man is, of course. It is Jesus Christ, to whom God has given all judgment (John 5:22).

But at this point Paul was interrupted, and he evidently never even got to name the name of Christ. "When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, 'We shall hear you again concerning this.' So Paul went out of their midst" (Acts 17:32–33). The Epicureans did not believe in a resurrection at all, while the Stoics believed in a spiritual resurrection but not the resurrection of the body. Perhaps stung by his call for repentance, they responded by collectively mocking Paul. In fact, as soon as he mentioned the resurrection, the skeptics began to scoff. Evidently some had heard enough to reject Paul's message without even hearing him out. Others said they would hear more later. So Paul simply went out of their midst.

Not everyone doubted or delayed, however. "Some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them" (Acts 17:34). Enough of the truth had penetrated their hearts so that these people followed Paul to find out more. Obviously, Paul continued his sermon for those who wanted to hear, and some of them were converted. One of the converts was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus court. Another was a woman named Damaris. Since she is given no title, we can assume she was a common woman. So this sermon reached people at both ends of the social spectrum—philosophers and housewives, men and women, intellectuals and ordinary people. This little band of converts joined Paul and became the first Christians in Athens.

That seemingly meager harvest did not discourage Paul, nor did it provoke him to go back to Mars' Hill and engage in a more culturally-sensitive discourse. As we'll see next time, Paul had unshakable confidence in the unvarnished message of the gospel and God's power at work through its faithful proclamation. As he would later write, the gospel "is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16).

Idolatry. Rebellion against God. Refusing to put Him first. Declaring in your heart and mind that there are things that are more important than Him in your life. We allow all that is IN the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life (I John 2:16) to draw our attention away from the One who created all that the world contains. Why, oh why, are we so quick to appreciate the created things and slow to acknowledge the One who created it?

When you allow earthly things to take preeminence in your life, you are pushing God aside and replacing Him with the deceptive babbles which Satan waves before your eyes. How are you to fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter (completer) of faith (Hebrews 12:1-2)? You need to lay aside every encumbrance (obstacle) and sin that so easily entangles us, and run the race He has set before you. You are here to worship the Almighty God of Heaven and in everything you say and do bring glory and honor to His name.

Is your life about Him or is your life about stuff?

DAY ONE

Last week you were studying the sin of idolatry and how it quickly pulls us down. We are going to complete that study in these first couple of days.

1. Remember to start your time in prayer. There is so much that God can reveal to your heart if you come openly before Him and allow Him to show you areas that need to be fixed.
2. Review DAY FIVE from last week. Look at both the questions and your answers. If you need clarification, take time to read the Scripture references as well.
3. God knows man well. From the establishing of the nation of Israel, God made it very clear how He felt about idolatry and why. In Deuteronomy 13, God gives clear instructions to His people. Let's read through it paragraph by paragraph and see what can be learned.
 - a. Read each paragraph and record the warnings and punishments.

1) Deuteronomy 13:1-5

2) Deuteronomy 13:6-11

3) Deuteronomy 13:12-18

b. How does God feel about idolatry? I just don't want you to miss this.

c. How can these principles be applied to your life today?

4. Where does idolatry lead? Read Romans 1:21-32 carefully and record your insights.

5. What kind of nation do we live in today?

6. How are you living for God in the midst of it? Let's do a bit of self examination. Read through the questions and write your truthful response to each. Now is the time to open your heart up before God. Be honest, He already knows what's in there. Expose the sin and allow Him to cleanse you and make you holy before Him.
- a. Is there anything in your life that is keeping you from having a right relationship with God?

 - b. What is God's desire for you? What should you be doing that you are not doing?

 - c. What should you not be doing that you are doing?

 - d. What place does God have in you life?

 - e. What place does God's Word have in your life? Don't say that it is important because it sits in a prominent spot on your shelf. If you are not in it every day, that is an indication of how important it truly is.

- f. If God called you to leave everything right now to follow Him, would you do it?
Why or why not?

Introspection can be painful, but it is also necessary to clear away the dross (impurities) of your life.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from Your presence
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
And sustain me with a willing spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners will be covered to You.
Psalm 51:10-13*

DAY TWO

Last week you read all but the last four verses in Judges 2. You are going to work through those today.

1. Start by reading Judges 2:11-23.
2. Last week you wrote the detailed events that were covered in these verses. You recorded what the people did and how God responded. Take a moment and go back and review the list you created on page 45.
3. Judges 2:19 records the events after the judge died. What did the people do, and what would they not do?

4. Read Judges 2:20-23 and answer the following questions.
 - a. According to verse 20, how did the Lord respond and why?

 - b. What would God no longer do in verse 21?

 - c. For what purpose did God allow the nations to remain in the land?

 - d. The Israelites were going to suffer hard times because of their initial lack of faith and trust and their incomplete obedience to God. But even in the midst of suffering and hardships, God would be able to use it as a teaching opportunity.

5. Do believers today have the opportunity to learn from the hardships and sufferings in life? We suffer the consequences of our own sin, for the sins of others, as well as the sin that holds the world under its curse. When God allows suffering into our lives, is there a purpose? Can we find encouragement through those times? Read the following verses and record what you learn.

a. Romans 8:16-18

b. Romans 8:28-30

c. II Thessalonians 1:3-12

d. James 1:2-4

e. I Peter 2:18-23

f. I Peter 3:14-17

g. I Peter 4:1-2

h. I Peter 4:13-19

i. I Peter 5:8-10

6. What have you learned about suffering in your life?

Yes, there is a purpose in our suffering!

7. Now you can check what your commentaries say about Judges 2.

DAY THREE

Today you will be completing your Observation Worksheets for Judges 3. If you need the step-by-step instructions for this, you will find them on page 30 in Lesson 4. Make sure you mark the phrase “the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord” as a key phrase in the book of Judges. Also, mark each judge mentioned in a distinct way or color. We will deal with each one later in our lessons.

DAY FOUR

1. Yesterday, you marked the key phrase “the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord.” Let’s start by taking a look at where this phrase is used and in what context. Read the verse (and the surrounding verses to build the context - the setting in which it is said) and record what the people were doing that caused this to be said about them.
 - a. Judges 2:11
 - b. Judges 3:7
 - c. Judges 3:12
 - d. Judges 4:1
 - e. Judges 6:1

f. Judges 10:6

g. Judges 13:1

2. As you read about what the children of Israel had done, do you think the Lord responded in a way that was mean? unjust? unloving? unrighteous? Explain your answer.
3. Read Judges 3:1-4 carefully and answer these questions.
 - a. Why did God leave the nations in the land of Canaan?
 - b. What do you know about this generation? Read Judges 2:10 and 3:1-2.
 - c. What did God mean that these nations “were for testing Israel, to find out if they would obey the commandments of the Lord, which He had commanded their fathers through Moses”? Compare Judges 3:4 with Judges 2:21-23.

4. The Hebrew word for “test” (prove, KJV) is *nacah* which means “to test, assay, prove, try.” It is used four times in the book of Judges: 2:22; 3:1, 4; 6:39. Let’s look up some other places where this word is used and see if you can come to a fuller understanding of this word. How and why does God test His people?
 - a. Exodus 16:4
 - b. Deuteronomy 8:2, 16
 - c. Exodus 20:20
 - d. Psalm 26:2
 - e. Malachi 3:10
5. The New Testament Greek uses the word *peirazo* to convey the same meaning (the Hebrew word translated into Greek). Let’s look at a couple of those passages.
 - a. Hebrews 11:17

b. Revelation 2:2, 10

6. The Greek word dokimos which is a synonym meaning “acceptable (after being assayed)” translated as “approved, tried.” Look up II Timothy 2:15 and record what you learn.

7. Now let’s look at the antonym of dokimos - adokimos - translated “unapproved; rejected; by implication - worthless”. I Corinthians 9:27 translates it disqualified (castaway - KJV). Read this and record what you learn.

8. Summarize what you have learned about God’s testing or proving Israel.

9. How does this apply to your own life?

10. You can now look at what your commentaries have to say about Judges 3:1-4. Don’t go any further than that at this point in time.

DAY FIVE

1. Read Judges 3:4-11 and watch the progression, regression of Israel. What lead to both? Draw a diagram below to illustrate the cycle.

2. It is obvious that the children of Israel were living in the midst of ungodly and corrupt pagan cultures. In fact, they were surrounded by them. They were called to be different, to be separated from them. They were called to drive them out and make no covenants with them (not to join themselves together in any way). We face the same problem today. We live “in” the world, but we are not to be “of” the world. How are we to be living “in” it but not be “of” it? Being “in” the world is our location. We live in an ungodly world; therefore, our Christian worldview is constantly challenged. “Of” the world shows that it has become our source of information. It’s one thing to be “in” the ungodly environment and another to use that environment to gain our information and determine our behavior. As you read the following Scriptures, ask yourself the 5 W’s and H questions. Record what you learn.

- a. John 15:19

b. John 17:14-16

c. I John 2:15

d. Romans 12:1-2

e. Romans 16:17-19

f. II Corinthians 6:14-7:1 - bound together (unequally yoked - KJV) - present tense

g. I Corinthians 7:39

h. I Corinthians 5:9-10

i. I Corinthians 15:33

j. Matthew 9:9-12 and I Corinthians 5:9-13 - Are we to cut off all associations with unbelievers? Can we drive out all the heathens as the Israelites were to do?

3. Thinking and praying through all these Scriptures, what conclusions can you make regarding your relationship as a child of God with unbelievers?

We are not done dealing with this topic yet. We will come back to this subject and learn more next week. This is vital to our understanding of our place in this world. Why has God placed us here and what does He want us to accomplish? Stay tuned. Isn't this exciting?

How are we supposed to deal with the pull of the flesh? The temptations of the world? The schemes of the devil?

Israel didn't do very well with their battle. What can we learn from them, and how can we do better in our struggle?

Let's go to God's Word, our sword, and learn how to use it effectively!

DAY ONE

Remember to begin every day in prayer as we approach God's holy word that has the power to change our lives. Ask Him to reveal His truth to your heart.

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-3 and watch for the condition of every human being before he comes into a covenant relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. Record what you learn about the life-style of those who were dead in their trespasses and sins with relationship to the . . .
 - a. . . . world
 - b. . . . prince of the power of the air (Satan)
 - c. . . . flesh
3. Looking over the three things mentioned above, is one of them the root cause of all the problems of a lost person? If so, which one is the problem? Why is it a problem and how does it effect the other two. Explain your reasoning.

4. Let's go back to the beginning, back to the book of Genesis. If you need some refreshing, you may want to skim the first three chapters of Genesis and then answer these questions.
 - a. What was the world like when man was first created?
 - b. When man was created, what was his relationship to the world?
 - c. When man was created, what was his relationship to the devil?
 - d. When man was created, what was his relationship to the flesh?
 - e. Read Genesis 2:16-17 and Genesis 3:1-7. When Satan tempted Eve, to what did he appeal?
 - f. Why was eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil a sin? Was the fruit the issue or was there something else?
 - g. Read Isaiah 53:6 and note how that compares to what happened in the garden.
 - h. What effect did this act of Adam have on mankind? Read Romans 5:12 and then read Genesis 5:1-3 (notice whose likeness Adam was made as well as Seth).
 - i. Read John 8:34 and Romans 6:6 and explain man's relationship to sin.
 - j. Read Romans 6:13. What part of man becomes an instrument of sin? What does that mean?

5. Before going any further, let's nail down how Scripture defines sin. Record what you learn and don't just repeat words. Explain what lawlessness is or other such words. We are trying to dig down to the root of the issue, not just throw big words or labels at it that may make us sound spiritual or knowledgeable. If we can't explain it to a child, then we don't truly understand what we are reading!
 - a. I John 3:4
 - b. I John 5:17
 - c. Romans 14:23
 - d. James 4:17
 - e. James 2:9
 - f. If you have any study tools, look up the definition of sin #G266 - hamartia

6. Let's pull all this together and draw some conclusions.
 - a. The root of man's problems is in his flesh. Satan's appeal is to "be like God." That was an appeal to Eve and to us today. I make up my own rules and live however I want to live. It is all about me!
 - b. The flesh then becomes the carrier of sin - sin dwells within me - it is my flesh (Romans 7:5, 17, 23).
 - c. According to Romans 6:13, my flesh is an instrument of sin. My heart/mind is part of that flesh (Matthew 15:18-20; Galatians 5:19-21).
 - d. In conclusion then, the world or the devil has a foothold in a person's life through the flesh. This is the base of all enemy operations.
 - e. Now we can understand all those Scriptures that talk about crucifying the flesh! You don't need to read these and this is just a partial list of verses that talk about crucifying, dying to, or putting aside the flesh.

Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23; Romans 6:6; 7:1-25; 8:13; 12:1-2; I Corinthians 15:31; Galatians 2:20; 5:1-26; 6:7-8; Ephesians 4:22; Colossians 3:5

7. So how are you going to deal with this problem that you have (we all have)? First you need to remember that apart from Jesus Christ you are powerless against the flesh. You are in bondage to it (sin) according to Ephesians 2:1-3. Only Christ can set you free. Read these verses and record what you learn.
 - a. John 8:34, 36
 - b. Romans 6:1-7 - “done away with” means *rendered inoperative* in verse 6.
 - c. Read Numbers 21:4-9 and note how the situation that faced the Israelites relates to us living with the flesh each and every day of our lives.
 - d. God did not remove your flesh. It is still there with all its longings; however, it is no longer a slave because its ruler, the old self, has died. With that said, can you walk or live any way you want? Read Galatians 5:16-18, 24-25 to answer that question and note how a believer is to deal with the flesh.

Wow! Has that been enough for the day?

DAY TWO

Today we are going to look at the world and its pull on us.

The Greek word for “world” in the verses we will be studying is #G2889 - kosmos

- it is the sum total of material in the universe
- the inhabitants men/families
- ungodly multitude, the whole mass of men alienated from God and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ
- present order of things - world affairs - all things earthly like earthly goods, endowments, riches, advantages, pleasures
 - Although hollow and frail and fleeting, stir desire and seduce from God and are obstacles to the cause of Christ

1. Read the following verses and record what you learn about the world and your relationship to it.

a. I John 2:15-17

b. Ephesians 2:1-3

c. James 4:4

d. James 1:27

e. John 15:18-21 - note how the world feels about Christians and why

- f. Romans 12:2 - look up the words for “conformed,” “world,” “transformed,” and “renewing”
2. You dealt with the flesh yesterday. Then you looked at the world and your relationship to it. Now let’s see what God’s Word says about the devil and how you are to handle him. Record what you learn from each passage.
- a. Luke 10:17-20
- b. Ephesians 1:18-23
- c. Ephesians 4:27 - look up the word “opportunity” (place - KJV)
- d. Ephesians 6:11-17 - what are you to do and how?
- e. Colossians 1:13; 2:9-10, 15

f. Hebrews 2:14-15 “render powerless” is the same word we looked at in Romans 6:6)

g. James 4:7-8

h. I John 3:8

i. I John 4:4

3. Looking over yesterday and today, how can you have victory in your life? How can you stay in Gilgal and not find yourself in Bochum?

DAY THREE

“And the angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim.” In Gilgal, there was a nation living in obedience (for the most part) under a man of God, Joshua. The book of Joshua was full of joy, praise, and victory. Now in Judges we find ourselves in Bochim, a nation living in disobedience and everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Why? It was a time of apathy, compromise, and spiritual darkness. God was no longer with the nation. He was no longer going before them to drive out the nations, but yet there was hope. God raised up judges, and He would be with them. Hope was not completely gone. Were the people willing to follow the judge, God’s representative on earth, and find victory in obedience once again?

You are going to begin doing character studies on the judges - the men and women whom God raised up to deliver His people. Were they perfect? Were they obedient? Were they pillars of society - someone who was well respected by all? There are charts in the Observation Worksheet section of your papers entitled “Judge’s Character Study.” These can be found on pages 64-70. There is enough space on each page to record the information of two judges.

If you have never done a character study before, you are probably not alone. There are instructions on page 63 of your Observation Worksheets. As you work through these steps, I recommend doing your work on a separate piece of paper. When you have completed the study on one particular judge, you can gather up all your information and then record on your charts beginning on page 64.

So let’s begin our study on Judges 3.

1. Last week you read through Judges 3 and did your Observation Worksheets, so today, read through it and see if you missed anything.
2. Read through Judges 3:1-6 and answer the following questions.
 - a. According to verse 1 and 4, why were the nations left in the land?

 - b. Did the Israelites pass the test? Why or why not?

3. Now you are going to begin your first character study on Othniel. Read Judges 3:7-11. Othniel is mentioned in several other places and always with Caleb. This is why letter “K” is important in your steps to completing character sketches. Use your word study tools to find out where else in Scripture this person is mentioned. I will give you a head start with Othniel, so you can see how important it will be to your future study. Othniel is also mentioned in Judges 1; Numbers 13:6, 17-33; 14:1-30; Joshua 14:6-15.

Just a note, when you are taking this information over to your “Judges Character Study” don’t think that you will be able to fill in every space for every judge. Also, you may find that you have an abundance of material, so feel free to use other paper if there is not enough room on your chart.

DAY FOUR

Make sure you take time to reflect on what you are learning. Sometimes we get caught up in the process and don’t take time to . . . well . . . process.

1. If you did not finish with Othniel, you can finish that before going on to the next judge.
2. Read through Judges 3:12-30. Let’s see what you can learn about Ehud as you do his character study. Do the best you can and enjoy the journey.
3. Record all your information on your charts.

DAY FIVE

1. Today you are going to be looking into the life of Shamgar. Read Judges 3:31. There is not much recorded, so certainly we can't learn anything, right?
 - a. Can you learn anything about his family?
 - b. What is an oxgoad? Do some research.
 - c. How many Philistines did he strike down?
 - d. What can you learn about the Philistines? Do some research.

2. All of these details can help you come to know Shamgar a little better.
3. Record what information you have on your chart.
4. Check out what the commentaries have to say for Judges 3:7-31. Please don't go any further.

God uses those who are open to His calling. No matter how big or small, young or old, male or female, strong or weak, you can be used mightily of God.

This week you will have the privilege of studying the life of Deborah. Watch how God uses this woman. When others are afraid to step into the battle, she boldly steps in placing her trust in God.

DAY ONE AND DAY TWO

There are two chapters that give the account of Deborah as judge. Judges 4 gives you information about her life and the events that unfold. Chapter 5 is a song of victory from Deborah. It fills in details of the story not given in chapter 4.

There is a wealth of information that can be learned and applied from studying the life of Deborah. Ask God to touch your heart and mind, to give you the willingness to step into whatever position He has called you to take.

Please read all the instructions before beginning your work.

1. Start by reading Judges 4-5. Read these two chapters in your Observation Worksheets.
2. I have included Judges 5 in the New International Version (NIV) at the end of this lesson. It may add some clarity to the events. Take time to read chapter 5 in the Observation Worksheets again, and then read Judges 5 at the end of this lesson.
3. Does the NIV version help you understand the events any better? If so, what did it clarify for you?
4. Take the first two days this week to complete your Observation Worksheets. Make sure to follow the step by step instructions of what and how to mark. If you need a reminder of the steps, you can refer to page 30 in Lesson 4. Give special attention to the tribes that are mentioned. Mark each one in a specific way. If you have already been marking the names of the tribes in previous chapters, make sure to make them the same way. As you work on your Observation Worksheets choose which version of chapter 5 you want to use.

2. Read Acts 2:18 and I Corinthians 11:5. What do these passages teach about women prophesying?

3. There are very few examples of this in the Word of God, so when they are mentioned, it makes you stop and take note as to why this was included in Scripture. Why do you think Deborah's story was included?

4. There is another woman mentioned in the account of Deborah, and her name is Jael. What do you learn about Jael in Judges 4-5. List what you learn and note how she played a role in Israel's deliverance.

5. To end today's study, let's take a look at the battle itself. Read Judges 4-5 once more and fill in the details of the battle on the chart below.

Reason for the Battle	
Strategy	
Who Joined	
Who Did Not Join	
How and Why of Victory	
Response	
Personal Application	

DAY FOUR AND DAY FIVE

These last two days will give you an opportunity to know Deborah better. Complete a character study (following the directions on OWS 63 and when you have completed the study, transferring that information over to the chart that is on OWS 65 (64 should be filled in already as well as the first column on 65).

After completing your character study, then work through the following steps.

1. Can you see any applications for your own life in this account of Deborah?

2. You can now take a look at what the commentaries say about Judges 4-5.

Judges 5 - _____

NIV (New International Version)

1 On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song:

2 “When the princes in Israel take the lead,
 when the people willingly offer themselves—
 praise the Lord!

3 “Hear this, you kings! Listen, you rulers!
 I, even I, will sing to the Lord;
 I will praise the Lord, the God of Israel, in song.

4 “When you, Lord, went out from Seir,
 when you marched from the land of Edom,
the earth shook, the heavens poured,
 the clouds poured down water.

5 The mountains quaked before the Lord, the One of Sinai,
 before the Lord, the God of Israel.

6 “In the days of Shamgar son of Anath,
 in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned;
 travelers took to winding paths.

7 Villagers in Israel would not fight;
 they held back until I, Deborah, arose,
 until I arose, a mother in Israel.

- 8 God chose new leaders
when war came to the city gates,
but not a shield or spear was seen
among forty thousand in Israel.
- 9 My heart is with Israel's princes,
with the willing volunteers among the people.
Praise the Lord!
- 10/11 "You who ride on white donkeys,
sitting on your saddle blankets,
and you who walk along the road,
consider the voice of the singers at the watering places.
They recite the victories of the Lord,
the victories of his villagers in Israel.
"Then the people of the Lord
went down to the city gates.
-
- 12** 'Wake up, wake up, Deborah!
Wake up, wake up, break out in song!
Arise, Barak!
Take captive your captives, son of Abinoam.'
- 13 "The remnant of the nobles came down;
the people of the Lord came down to me against the mighty.
- 14 Some came from Ephraim, whose roots were in Amalek;
Benjamin was with the people who followed you.
From Makir captains came down,
from Zebulun those who bear a commander's staff.

15 The princes of Issachar were with Deborah;
yes, Issachar was with Barak,
sent under his command into the valley.

In the districts of Reuben
there was much searching of heart.

16 Why did you stay among the sheep pens[d]
to hear the whistling for the flocks?

In the districts of Reuben
there was much searching of heart.

17 Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan.
And Dan, why did he linger by the ships?

Asher remained on the coast
and stayed in his coves.

18 The people of Zebulun risked their very lives;
so did Naphtali on the terraced fields.

19 “Kings came, they fought,
the kings of Canaan fought.

At Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo,
they took no plunder of silver.

20 From the heavens the stars fought,
from their courses they fought against Sisera.

21 The river Kishon swept them away,
the age-old river, the river Kishon.
March on, my soul; be strong!

- 22 Then thundered the horses' hooves—
galloping, galloping go his mighty steeds.
- 23 'Curse Meroz,' said the angel of the Lord.
'Curse its people bitterly,
because they did not come to help the Lord,
to help the Lord against the mighty.'
-
- 24 "Most blessed of women be Jael,
the wife of Heber the Kenite,
most blessed of tent-dwelling women.
- 25 He asked for water, and she gave him milk;
in a bowl fit for nobles she brought him curdled milk.
- 26 Her hand reached for the tent peg,
her right hand for the workman's hammer.
She struck Sisera, she crushed his head,
she shattered and pierced his temple.
- 27 At her feet he sank,
he fell; there he lay.
At her feet he sank, he fell;
where he sank, there he fell—dead.
-
- 28 "Through the window peered Sisera's mother;
behind the lattice she cried out,
'Why is his chariot so long in coming?
Why is the clatter of his chariots delayed?'

- 29 The wisest of her ladies answer her;
indeed, she keeps saying to herself,
- 30 ‘Are they not finding and dividing the spoils:
a woman or two for each man,
colorful garments as plunder for Sisera,
colorful garments embroidered,
highly embroidered garments for my neck—
all this as plunder?’
- 31 “So may all your enemies perish, Lord!
But may all who love you be like the sun
when it rises in its strength.”

Then the land had peace forty years.

Even when your faith is weak and the odds are stacked against you, God can use you for great and mighty things. Paul said that he would rather boast in his weakness so that Christ's power would be seen in him. God's grace is sufficient to overcome your weakness (II Corinthians 12:9-10)!

Let's see what we can learn from a man named Gideon. Study well and watch the power of God work in this man.

DAY ONE THROUGH DAY THREE

Over the next three days, you are going to work on your Observation Worksheets on Judges 6-8 as well as your character study on the life of Gideon. Gideon's life can be such an encouragement. Allow God to encourage your heart and mind through the trials and victories in these pages.

1. Be sure to start each day in prayer and allow God to teach you through this time.
2. Read Judges 6-8 straight through.
3. Read Deuteronomy 20:1-9. How does this relate to Gideon's situation?
4. If you are using your Observation Worksheets, you will have noticed that chapter 8's spacing is different. There is not the space to work as there was in other chapters. The bulk of the story and your work will be in chapters 6-7, so work there. As you read through chapter 8, you can mark something here or there if you want it to stand out or write a note or comment in the side margins.
5. As you read through Gideon's account, watch each incident carefully and note any spiritual progress or regress as the story unfolds.
6. If you spend two days on your Observation Worksheets, you should be able to complete the character study on the third day. There is only one other Scripture that mentions Gideon and that is Hebrews 11:32-34. Make sure to take all the information you have gleaned and put it on the charts in your Observation Worksheets.

DAY FOUR

Gideon seemed to have a difficult time discerning God's will. Many times we look at people like Gideon and say, "God personally told you what to do, why are you having so much trouble listening to Him? Just do what He says!" As you point your finger at Gideon, remember that there are three fingers pointing back at you.

Gideon heard God speak to Him, but God speaks to us through the prophets and His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2) through His Word. God has clearly communicated what His will is for our lives. Many people question or bemoan the fact that they just want to know God's will for their lives. What they're saying in essence is, "I want God to draw a road map for me with a list of rest stops along the way. I really don't want God's interference with the mundane everyday things. I just want Him to jump in when I say, and tell me what I am supposed to do at this juncture of my life."

That is not the way God works. Throughout the whole of Scripture, God HAS TOLD you what you are supposed to be doing each and every day. Are you following His will in all those minuscule areas of your life? If you are, He will direct your steps when you get to those big crossroads.

I have included a list of verses at the end of this lesson that are verses that speak to God's will in the life of a true believer. Is the Lord Jesus Christ truly the Master of your life, and are you acting out of love and obedience in every thought, word, step, and action? This is not a Sunday morning, Wednesday night lifestyle, but an every moment of every day striving to walk in obedience to Him.

1. Let's take the microscope off of you for a moment and put it back on Gideon. Did Gideon know what God's will was for him? To put it another way, did God already tell Gideon what He was going to do for Israel through Gideon? Read Judges 6:36-40 and answer that question.
2. Why did Gideon then put out the fleece not only once but twice? Do you think this was necessary for him to understand what God wanted him to do?

DAY FIVE

1. After beginning with prayer, read Judges 8:22-35 carefully and then answer the following questions.
 - a. What did the people want Gideon to do in verse 22? What did they want him to become?
 - b. Why do you think the people requested this?
 - c. How did Gideon respond in verse 23 and was it a good response?
 - d. Too bad he didn't stop there! What did Gideon do in verses 24-27?
 - e. According to verses 29-32, what do you learn about the end of Gideon's life and what does this tell you about his character and integrity?
 - f. Gideon had a son and named him Abimelech. We would normally not think anything of that, but we need to remember that names had meanings in those times. Look up what "Abimelech" means and record what that tells you about Gideon.

2. Now it is time to see what your commentaries have to say about Judges 6-8. Record insights here or on another paper.

Will of God

- **Following all the commands throughout the New Testament**
- John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38-40; 7:17
- Jesus (our example) is to do the will of God who sent Him and accomplish His work
- Not to seek our own will but God's
- If anyone is willing to do God's will, he will know if the teaching is from God
- Romans 12:1-2 (2)
- Present my body a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God
- Don't conform to the pressures of this world
- Be transformed by the renewing of my mind, so I can do that which is good, acceptable, and perfect
- II Corinthians 7:(9-10)
- being sorrowful to the point of repentance
- II Corinthians 8:3-5 (5)
- giving myself first to the Lord and then giving to the work of the Lord
- Ephesians 1:5-14 (5, 9, 11)
- I would be a holy and blameless adopted child through His grace to His praise and glory
- To understand His kind intention in Christ
- To be praise and glory to Him
- Ephesians 2:8-10
- I walk in the good works that God has prepared for me
- Ephesians 3:4-10
- Through the gift of God's grace to make the manifold wisdom of God known to the rules and authorities in the heavenly places
- Ephesians 4:1-6
- Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which I have been called
- humility and gentleness
- Patience, showing tolerance for others in love
- Preserving the unity of the Spirit in bonds of peace
- Ephesians 5:17
- Don't be foolish - understand what the will of God is - goes on to give instructions
- Ephesians 6:5-6 (6)
- I need to please God not man by doing the will of God
- Philippians 2:12-15 (13)
- walking in obedience
- being sanctified with reverence and awe that God is working in me
- I need to be working out of my life what He has put into it to bring pleasure to Him
- Don't grumble or dispute
- prove myself blameless and innocent, a child of God above reproach
- walk as a light in a crooked and perverse generation
- Colossians 1:9-12 (9)
- Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord
- Please Him in all respects
- Bear fruit in every good work
- Increase in the knowledge of God
- Strengthened with all power according to His might
- I need to be steadfast and patient
- I need to be joyously giving thanks to God because he has qualified me to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light
- Colossians 3:15
- Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts (Philippians 4:4-9)
- I Thessalonians 4:3-8 (3)
- my sanctification
- abstain from sexual immorality
- I Thessalonians 5:12-22 (18)
- appreciate those who labor among us and have charge over you and give instruction esteeming them highly
- live in peace
- admonish the unruly
- encourage the fainthearted
- help the weak
- be patient
- don't repay evil with evil
- seek good for all people
- rejoicing always
- pray without ceasing
- give thanks in everything
- don't quench the Spirit
- don't despise prophetic utterances
- examine everything carefully
- hold fast to what is good
- abstain from evil
- Hebrews 13:20-21
- We are equipped in every good thing to do His will
- doing that which is pleasing in His sight
- I Peter 2:13-17 (15)
- submit to human institutions for the Lord's sake to be able to silence the ignorance of foolish men
- don't use freedom to cover for evil but be a bonds slave of God
- honor people
- love the brothers
- fear God
- honor the king
- I Peter 4:1-2, 19 (2, 19)
- suffer in the flesh as Christ did and don't live for the lusts of man
- entrust myself to a faithful Creator to do what is right
- Psalm 32:8
- Walk in the ways He instructs us to walk
- Psalms 37:5, 23-24
- Commit your ways to the Lord and trust in Him
- God establishes our steps and holds our hand (Proverbs 20:24)
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart and don't lean on your own understanding
- In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight

DAY ONE

If you look at your Observation Worksheets, you will notice that chapter 8 to chapter 19 are not set up like your normal worksheets. For these chapters you will not be doing all the steps of a standard observation. You will be reading over these chapters and watching the events that unfold in each judge's life.

So with that in mind, let's begin this week's study. Since you are going to do a whirlwind tour of four chapters this week, I will help point out some of the specific places to focus your study, to get the most out of these chapters.

1. Read Judges 8:30-9:57.
2. Read through these verses again. This time list what you learn about Abimelech, Jotham, and the events that occur in Abimelech's life

Abimelech	Jotham	Events

- c. They appealed to four different trees for the job. List each tree and write its response.

 - d. What were the first three trees busy doing?

 - e. What is a bramble and how did the its response differ from the others?

 - f. If the men of Shechem were the trees in this parable and Abimelech became their ruler, which of the four trees represented him? Why? Judges 9:4-5 may help you answer this question.
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3. Let's do a little review, so you grasp the seriousness of what is happening.
 - a. Who was supposed to rule over Israel?
 - b. Who raised up the judges?
 - c. How did Abimelech come to rule over the people?

 - d. Describe Abimelech's character.

DAY THREE

1. If you didn't finish your commentary work yesterday, you can spend a little time today finishing that.
2. Read Judges 10. Remember that you do not need to do an Observation Worksheet on this, just read it through.
3. There are two judges mentioned in verses 1-5. We don't learn much about either one, but go through the steps of a character study on each one and then record your information on your charts in your Observation Worksheets. When those are completed, you can move on to #4.
4. Read through Judges 10:6-18. Record what the people of Israel did, who God raised up against them, and when they cried out to God, what was God's response to them.
5. With whatever time you may have left, you can check what the commentaries say on Judges 10.

- f. Why do you think she mourned her virginity?
 - g. What did Jephthah do to his daughter according to Judges 11:39?
3. Let's take a look at what the Bible has to say about vows.
- a. Read Genesis 28:20-22 and 31:13. Record what you learn.
 - b. Read Numbers 30 and make a simple list (don't go into detail) of what you learn about vows.
4. What does Leviticus 22:17-25 teach regarding vows and burnt offerings?
5. Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 teaches us the importance of our words. How serious are the words you speak to God?
6. Now read Psalms 15. How does this relate back to the incident with Jephthah?

7. If someone spoke rashly, without thinking, was there a way out according to God's law? Read Leviticus 27 and find the answer to that.

8. Now here is the debate. What did Jephthah do? Did he offer his daughter as a burnt offering? Was this something that the neighboring nations would have done? Did he know enough about the law of God to spare her? Write down what you believe and why. Before you answer that I have one more Scripture for you to look at. Read Hebrews 11:32 in its context. Gives you something to think about.

DAY FIVE

1. Do a character study on Jephthah and record the information you have collected about Jephthah and fill in your "Judges Character" chart.
2. As you have studied the importance of vows, let me ask you a question. How important are the words that you speak? Are you a person of your word? If you say something, can a person depend on that, or do you make rash statements that you had no intention of keeping? Read Matthew 5:33-37 and James 5:12. What does the Word of God say? What have you learned about the importance of the words you speak?
3. Your other assignment for today is to spend time in reviewing what the commentaries have to say about Judges 11-12 if you have time. Since these chapters are hotly debated, you are going to get varying opinions.

Over the next two weeks, you will be studying the most well known judge, Samson. But what do you really know about his life? What lessons can he teach you? These next two weeks will be interesting indeed.

Study well. He is the last of our judges, but not the end of our study! Hasn't this book blessed you thus far? Stay tuned because there is so much more to learn.

DAY ONE

1. Before digging into Samson, you are going back to chapter 12 and recording what you learn about three more judges which are briefly mentioned. Take a couple of minutes to study them and do your character studies on each and record what you learn in your Observation Worksheets chart. You will find Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon in Judges 12:8-15.
2. Before calling it a day, read Judges 13-16 straight through just to familiarize yourself with the complete story of Samson.

DAY TWO

1. Read Judges 13-16 and then record your thoughts below.
 - a. What are your general impressions of Samson?

 - b. What was the atmosphere like at this time?

c. What seemed to be the main weaknesses in Samson?

d. What seemed to be the main strengths, besides the obvious - his strength?

2. Judges 13 begins by telling us that Israel was given into the hands of the Philistines for 40 years. Who were they? How did they come to occupy the land? Has Israel had encounters with them before? You are going to do a bit of research on that, but let me give you a brief background. There were five major cities each with a lord ruling over that city. Those cities were Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, and Gath. Beth-shan and Gerar were a couple of other prominent cities. As you are looking at these Scriptures, look at the maps provided in your Observation Worksheets and see if you can locate any of these cities.

a. Genesis 10:6-14 - this is the first mention of this people group

b. Genesis 21:32-34

c. Genesis 26:1

d. Exodus 13:17-18 - from Abraham until the time of the Exodus is approximately 700 years.

e. Exodus 23:31

f. Joshua 13:1-3

g. Judges 3:1-4, 31

h. Judges 10:6-11

Through I & II Samuel there were constant battles between Israel and the Philistines. What you are studying in Judges is the beginning of that conflict.

3. The Philistines worshipped Dagon, Ashtaroth (Astartes), and Baal-zebub (or the Baals). The Hebrew word *ba'al* means "master, possessor, or husband." When Israel came into the land, there were deities associated with every piece of the land. There were altars, sacred pillars, and Ashtaroths under every tree and on every hill (I Kings 14:23). These gods were the owners of the land, they were their masters and husband. Now in comes the Israelites, whose God, Yahweh, is their master and husband. Remember the Hebrew word for master/husband is *ba'al*. If they all worship the same "god - ba'al" can't they worship in the same way as the pagans worship god? Doesn't that sound just like the reasonings of man today? We all worship the same god - Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Catholic, Christian. Each person just has to find their own way to God and it's all good. **ON THE CONTRARY!** Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." - John 14:6. There is one way only, through the God/Man, Jesus Christ. He is the narrow way, all other ways are on the broad path that lead to death! - Matthew 7:13.

DAY THREE

1. Read through Judges 13-16 looking for key repeated words or phrases. Mark them and list them here.

2. Record the major events that happen in Samson's life and the place where each took place. Check your maps and look for the locations that are mentioned. You may want to mark them in a specific way.

3. How long was Israel in the hands of the Philistines?
4. How long did Samson judge Israel?
5. Now that you are more familiar with Samson's life, list his strengths and weaknesses.

6. What was God's purpose for Samson's life, and do you think that Samson accomplished that purpose? Why?

7. At what point in time was Samson the most effective? Why?

b. Judges 13

c. Amos 2:11-12

4. There are three main points of the vow. List them below leaving a little space after each one. Now go back and specify whether Samson obeyed or disobeyed each point and if he disobeyed, when did that happen?

DAY FIVE

Today you are going to compare Samson's life with Samuel. They both lived under Philistine oppression. They were both raised up by God as judges over Israel. You are going to read I Samuel 1-3 and 7. As you read these chapters, look for comparisons and contrasts between the two.

Samson	Samuel

Samson. The last of the judges listed in this book. He killed more Philistines in his death than he did in his life. What makes Samson so unique? What can we learn from his life?

DAY ONE

Read through Judges 13-16 carefully and note what it was like to live in Israel under the thumb of the Philistines. How did the people act? How did they handle the oppression? How is the account of Samson different from all the other judges?

DAY TWO

Samson had a weakness. I am sure you figured it out by now, but in case you missed it, women were his downfall. Remember that the theme throughout Judges was that everyone did what was right in his own eyes. When you read about the woman in Timnah in Judges 14:1-3, Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she looks good to me . . ." The literal translation is, "she was right in Samson's eyes." In chapter 16 there was the harlot in Gaza, and then later on in that chapter he meets up with Delilah who brought him down. This all may have been right in Samson's eyes, but is it right in God's eyes?

Immorality is addressed many times in Scripture because it was a big problem then, and it is a big problem today! We live in an amoral (without morals) world today - a lawless time where what is right in my eyes is the only thing that is important. The world no longer fears the judgments of a righteous and holy God, even within the church. Look at the Christian leaders that have been caught in their immorality and Christian marriages that are tossed away in hopes that a new relationship will be better.

God's instructions through His Word is to help us live as men and women of integrity, a moral compass and example to the rest of the world. Unfortunately the church is failing miserably! Are we seeking to do what is right in God's eyes or content to do what is right in our own?

Let's take a look at God's calling on our lives in the realm of morality.

1. We will start by defining some words that are of the utmost importance. We want to see how they are defined by God, not the laws of the world.
 - a. Adultery - #H5003 na'aph and #G3428 moichalis - unfaithfulness to the one to whom you are betrothed; to break vows that have been made; in reference to God - to apostatize, idolatrous worship.
 - b. Fornication - #H2181 zana and #G4202 porneia - wanton pleasure; be a harlot; illicit sexual intercourse; any sexual relationship outside of the bounds of one man, one women in the committed bonds of marriage
 - c. Harlot - #H2181 zana (same as fornication) and #G4204 pome - a prostitute; someone who defiles themselves for the sake of gain; whore
 - d. Incest - sexual intercourse between persons so closely related that they are forbidden by law to marry
 - e. Homosexuality - sexual relationship between people of one's own sex (and there are only two sexes)
 - f. Bestiality - sexual intercourse between a person and an animal
 - g. Sodomy - any sexual contact that is not God's design for procreation; unnatural or immoral

2. Knowing the definition of these sexual activities, let's explore what the Bible has to say about them.
 - a. Exodus 20:14
 - b. Leviticus 20:10
 - c. Leviticus 20:11
 - d. Leviticus 18:6
 - e. Leviticus 18:17
 - f. Leviticus 20:13
 - g. Leviticus 20:15-16

3. Read Matthew 5:27-29. How does this relate to Samson's life?

4. One last assignment for today. You are going to read through I Corinthians 6:12-20. Take your time to prayerfully think through this passage looking for the following points. Take what you learn and put it in an outline form or a written composition. You want to understand this well enough to be able to explain it someone else.
 - a. the argument some might us for freedom of sexual expression
 - b. Paul's response to this argument
 - c. what immorality does to a Christian
 - d. what "the Lord is for the body" means
 - e. the purpose of this passage
 - f. how this applies to Samson's life
 - g. how it applies to your life

DAY THREE

You are going to continue to see what God's Word says about your sexuality. I Thessalonians 4:3 says that it is God's will that you be sanctified by abstaining from sexual immorality.

1. Carefully read I Thessalonians 4:3-8. Using whatever study tools you have, thoroughly observe this passage and record what you learn.

2. Read Hebrews 13:4. How does this relate to the Thessalonians passage?

3. How do these verses relate to Samson's life?

4. How does II Timothy 2:22 relate to Samson? How does it relate to you?

5. Read Proverbs 6:20-7:27 and watch God's warnings to man.

6. Genesis 39 has a story about another man who was being pursued by a seductive woman. It is the story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife. Record what you learn about the difference between the events in Joseph's and Samson's lives.

Potiphar's Wife's Persuasion	Delilah's Persuasion
Joseph's Response	Samson's Response

DAY FOUR

There was a purpose for Samson's life, just as there is a purpose for yours. Samson was just a little late in understanding his. When you come to chapter 16, you can see how far Samson had sunk. Prostitutes, and then of course, the whole scene with Delilah. As you read the account, you just want to scream, "Samson, don't do it! Can't you see what Delilah is up to? How can you be so . . . blind?"

At the end of his life he was blind, grinding in the prison. You can't get much lower than that! He was made sport of, being mocked and ridiculed by the Philistines. At this low point in his life, he calls out to the Lord, and he fulfills the purpose of killing many Philistines, willingly giving his life in the process.

What does it take for God to get your attention? Learn from Samson's life. Don't wait until God brings you to the point of being blind and enslaved before you call out to Him and ask Him what He wants you to do for Him.

1. Read Hebrews 11:32-34. Look at the men that are listed in the Hall of Faith. Each of them had their high points and their low points in their lives. Isn't it amazing what God was able to do with each of them? Record what these men accomplished for God.
2. Looking at that list makes you wonder a bit. These men were confused. Some started strong and fizzled out. They all had big mistakes in their lives. Look at Samson. Most of the 20 years of time as judge was spent in games, sin, and failure. Read Ezekiel 33:1-20 two or three times. There are precious promises in there for us today. After reading, carefully detail the points that God makes concerning His people. You may want to read this in NASB instead of King James Version, it will be clearer in its meaning.

3. When Ezekiel spoke of living and dying, what do you think he was referring to (spiritual or physical) and why?

4. Can you see how this passage parallels with Samson's wasted life? Be thorough in your answer.

5. Samson's greatest victory came at his death, and so will yours! BUT, does that mean that it has to be at the end of your physical life? Read John 12:24-26 and answer that question, explaining what these verses mean.

6. You have read about Samson's life, but you haven't been asked this question yet. Where did Samson's strength come from? Did it come from his hair? What did his hair represent? Think through these questions because they have great bearing on your own life!

7. If you are to walk in power and victory, from where does your strength come? Read these verses and record your answer.

a. Zechariah 4:6

b. Galatians 2:20

DAY FIVE

1. Today, see what your commentaries say about Judges 13-16. Take special note of how the commentaries explain Judges 14:4. Matthew Henry's commentary was written in 1706 and therefore written in old English, but his take on Judges 14:1-4 is very thought provoking. You can access his commentaries online at <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/>

2. Transfer the necessary information you have gleaned over the past two weeks about Samson to the "Judges' Character Study" in your Observation Worksheets.

A lawless society - a description of the times of the judges. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. What does that look like in society? Immorality. Internal war. Chaos. Violence. Darkness. Oppression. Idolatry. Sound familiar? Welcome to today's headlines. We are living in a crooked and perverse generation which gets worse by the day.

DAY ONE

At the beginning of this study, you did an "At a Glance Chart" covering the entire book of Judges. At that time, you discovered that these last five chapters did not occur at the end of the time period of the judges, after Samson's time, but actually occurred at the beginning of the judges time period. It allowed you to catch a glimpse of the moral depravity of the people of Israel when the first judges were raised up. Now you are going to take the time to look deeper into this time of darkness and perversion of God's commands. This study can be used to shake the apathy that has befallen our world, and to reveal the rampant sin that ravages the world so that we can live as children of the light in the midst of this world of darkness.

Read through Judges 17-21 slowly and prayerfully. Record what is on your heart and mind. What do you see and feel about these chapters and how does it relate to the world you live in today?

DAY TWO

1. Let's divide Judges 17-21 into three segments: idolatry, immorality, and internal war.

Idolatry - chapter(s) _____

Immorality - chapter(s) _____

Internal War - chapter(s) _____

2. Let's focus on Judges 17-18. Using your maps in the Observation Worksheets, can you find where these events take place?
3. List the main events and the main characters (this could be an individual as well as a group of people) recorded in these two chapters.

4. Were these people religious? Did they understand the ways of God? Support your answer with Scripture.

3. Now read Exodus 32:1-29. How did the actions of Aaron and the Levites compare to the actions of the Levite in Judges 17-18?

4. Read Judges 17:7 several times.
 - a. Do you see a problem with this verse?

 - b. Read Deuteronomy 18:6-7, Joshua 21:1-42. Do these help your understanding?

5. Now let's focus on the sons of Dan. Read Judges 18 again and answer these questions.
 - a. Were the Danites not already given an inheritance in Israel? Read Judges 1:34-36.

 - b. Why were they wandering around looking for an inheritance?

 - c. Did they have an excuse as to why they were setting up their own graven images and their own worshipping places? It is in chapter 18. Find the verses and record them.

6. "The house of God was at Shiloh" according to Judges 18:31. Let's see what we can find out about Shiloh with a little bit of study. Can you find Shiloh on the maps included in your Observation Worksheets?
 - a. Joshua 18:1-10
 - b. I Samuel 1:3-24
 - c. I Samuel 3:21
 - d. I Samuel 4:3-11 (These are interesting verses! In what were they trusting? Were they walking in obedience to the Lord? Did they honor God? How could this have affected the judges during this time?)
 - e. Psalm 78:56-64
 - f. Jeremiah 7:12-14
 - g. II Samuel 6:12-17

7. What can we learn from Judges 18:31?

8. What have you learned from Judges 17-18?

DAY FOUR

Now we tackle a horrible chapter in Judges. Judges 19. The immorality and self-centeredness is so profound in this chapter. The fact that men could sexually abuse a woman for their immediate gratification and then leave her there to die. How can a human being sink so low. Self becomes so important that they are not even cognizant of the effect that it has on others. It doesn't matter who they hurt as long as they are satisfied. Can you see the same thing happening in our world today?

1. Read II Timothy 3:1-9. It warns us about what it will be like in the last days. Take a minute to read these verses and record what men will be like/act like.

2. Now Read Judges 19 and list the main people mentioned in this chapter and a description (what you learn about each one - you are not listing the events) of each one.

They did what was right in their own eyes. It didn't seem wrong.

But it was horribly wrong!

Could they truly be that blind and ignorant that they couldn't tell the difference?

Were they so apathetic? Are we?

We should be grieved over the morals of our society and the church! Do we just sit back and make excuses?

Shame on us!

DAY ONE

1. Read Judges 19-21. These are dark days of Israel's history, but we live in the same kind of darkness today. There is much that you can learn from these chapters.
2. Do a simple observation of these three chapters. Mark key words. Highlight things that may stand out to you. You don't have to do all the step-by-step observations you would normally do, but you do want to slow down enough to think through what is being presented to you in these chapters.

DAY TWO

Let's turn our attention to Judges 20. If you look at the chart "Period of the Judges" on OWS 60, you will see the events described in Judges 17-21 recorded in the "Events" column. This will give you an idea of when this chapter fits into the timeline.

1. In Judges 20, the men of Benjamin refused to deliver up the guilty men. Why do you think they did that?

2. When did the men of Israel consult the Lord in their plans? How did they consult Him? Did they ask for guidance or His blessings on their plans?

3. Where was the ark of the covenant at this point in time? Where was it supposed to be? Why do you think it wasn't there?

4. Let's take a look at the battles in more detail.
 - a. On the first day of battle, how many Israelites went up against their brothers the Benjamites and what were the results (17-23)?

 - b. On the second day of battle, how many Israelites went up against their brothers the Benjamites and what were the results (24-28)?

 - c. On the third day of battle, how many Israelites went up against their brothers the Benjamites and what were the results (29-48)?

 - d. The Benjamites lived in the hill country which is militarily easier to defend. Do you think that is why they won the battle the first two times, or do you think something else was going on?

 - e. Is there something that you can learn from this for your life?

5. What was the total cost of lives in these three conflicts? How many Benjamites survived?
6. Who do you believe is responsible for these lives lost?

DAY THREE

Who is to blame? Should there have been a war at all? Was there another way to deal with this grievous sin? Who should lead us through the steps of discipline? What happens where there is grievous sin in the church? What should the church do? Should we fight brother against brother?

1. Let's take a look at I Corinthians 5. It is typed out for you at the end of this lesson as an Observation Worksheet. Take your time and work through it following the steps of a through observation. Allow God to show you His heart on dealing with sin. Ask the Spirit to teach you His ways and show you how to handle sin in the church.
2. Compare what you have learned from I Corinthians 5 with Judges 20. Can you see any parallels. If so, write them out.

DAY FOUR

Today, you are going to review what you learned in the I Corinthians 5 passage.

1. What was the problem that Paul was dealing with?
2. What were his specific instructions?
3. What was the purpose of this type of discipline?
4. Who were the ones that were to be held to this discipline?
5. Why do you think this type of discipline is to be applied? Should it be applied in the church today?
6. If you aren't willing to follow God's instructions clearly spelled out in His Word, are you doing what is right in your eyes or His?

9. Once discipline has been applied to a “so called brother” who is habitually living in sin, the hope and prayer is that the person under discipline will repent. When the person repents, then what? Read II Corinthians 2:4-11 carefully and answer that question.
10. Answer the following questions just to be sure you catch the importance of doing what is right in God’s eyes even though it seems hard at the moment.
- a. Did the church of Corinth do what they were supposed to in I Corinthians 5?
 - b. Did the man who had committed sin repent according to II Corinthians 2?
 - c. What was the church told to do once the man repented?
 - d. Why was it important for the church to do these things?
 - e. Isn’t it amazing how the ways of God work. Read Isaiah 55:8. What does this verse teach and why is it so hard for us to trust that doing things God’s way is the right way.

DAY FIVE

1. Carefully read Judges 21.
2. List the main events in this chapter.
3. What was the problem the men of Israel were facing and how did they respond toward God in this situation?
4. How would you describe the events of this chapter?
5. How was this vow made in verse 1? Was it made before God, before me? Were they seeking God or taking matters into their own hands?
6. See what your commentaries have to say about Judges 20-21.

I Corinthians 5

1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.

2 You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

3 For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present.

4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus,

5 I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?

7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;

10 I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world.

11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church?

13 But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.