

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

Judges

DRIVING OUT
YOUR ENEMIES

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®
JUDGES
DRIVING OUT YOUR ENEMIES

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PAGE	LESSONS
1	LESSON ONE: Chapters 1, 2, 17–21
13	LESSON TWO: Chapter 3
23	LESSON THREE: Chapters 4–5
35	LESSON FOUR: Chapters 6–8
49	LESSON FIVE: Chapters 9–12
63	LESSON SIX: Chapters 13–16
75	LESSON SEVEN: Chapters 17–21
 A P P E N D I X	
90	Explanations of the New American Standard Version Text Format
91	Observation Worksheets
171	Judges at a Glance
173	Locations in Judges Chapters 1–3 Map
175	The Judges of Israel
179	My Insights on Leadership

HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Hebrew Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

INRIG, GARY

Hearts of Iron, Feet of Clay

Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1979

LEWIS, ARTHUR H.

Everyman's Bible Commentary: Judges and Ruth

Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1979

WOOD, LEON

Distressing Days of the Judges

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981

GAEBELEIN, FRANK E., ED.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Vol. 3

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992

EDERSHEIM, ALFRED

Old Testament Bible History

Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1984

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.

LESSON ONE

Chapters One, Two, Seventeen through Twenty-one

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of Judges 1, 2, 17–21
“Locations in Judges 1–3” map
“Judges at a Glance” chart

Judges is a book seldom studied or taught, yet it couldn't be more pertinent for our times. It's a book that demonstrates the darkness and bondage that falls on the nation or individual who turns from the Word of God and lives according to their perceptions of God by simply doing what is right in their own eyes.

Because Judges speaks so uncannily to our culture and our times, we would like the privilege of praying for you and with you as we begin this timely study.

O Father, as we begin a study that could be a launching pad to a life of greater significance, we ask You to help us look at our lives, at the state of our nation, at the state of our world in a new and fresh way. Let us see ourselves especially as You see us so that we might experience revival in our lives, so that we might be renewed and energized in our walk and service for You.

As we see that You use very ordinary men and women to accomplish significant tasks in the work of Your kingdom, may our prayer be that You would use us to deliver Your people from the darkness that envelops us when we're not enlightened by Your Word.

Keep us aware of Satan's methods and devices so that we will not be deterred in any way from our studies. Use whatever is necessary to keep us from losing heart, from becoming discouraged or wearied. If we are only able to do one assignment on one day and that's all we get done in a week, may we realize it is more than if we had done nothing. In the midst of an undisciplined people may we discipline ourselves for the sake of godliness. May we understand that greatness is never achieved nor dreams ever realized apart from great discipline and conflict, but the reward, the satisfaction of persevering is worth everything if we are doing it as unto You, our Lord and God.

Thank You for the assurance that if this is truly our prayer, it will be answered, for we know that it can be asked in Your name because it is according to Your will as revealed in Your Word. Constantly keep the truth of John 15:16 before us so that we never forget that we are chosen by You and ordained for good works. Thank You for Your promise that whatever we ask in Your name You will do it.

We love You, Father, and ask this in the name of the One who sits at Your right hand interceding for us.

Amen.

DAY ONE

Indifference, unbelief, incomplete obedience—where do they lead? What do they cost? Is it worth it?

Our objective this week is to get a sense of the times of the Judges, the 340 to 360 years following the victories of Joshua. The historical and moral setting of this dark period in Israel's history, along with the cause of this darkness, is captured for us in the opening and closing chapters of the book. Therefore, this is where we'll focus our attention this week.

If at any time during your study you need help, call your Precept Leader and ask him or her to help you or to direct you to someone in your class who can.

1. Judges 1 is printed out for you in the Appendix. Read it without pausing to figure it all out. Watch for a key phrase that is repeated several times from 1:21 to the end of the chapter.
2. Now read Judges 1 again and observe the text by following the instructions in a through d below. When we slow down and carefully observe a chapter, we call this a **chapter study**.
 - a. Mark references to time or sequence of events with a green circle.
 - b. Double underline in green references to geographical locations such as cities.
 - c. When you come to a verse that would give you a clue as to the historical setting of this book, put a star beside the verse number.
 - d. When you discover the key repeated phrase, underline or color it and write it below:

3. Whoever wrote Judges under the leadership of God’s Spirit wanted the reader of this historical account to understand two things in chapter 1: first, who the tribes of Israel were who failed to drive out the enemies from their inheritance of the land God gave them; secondly, who the enemies or nations were that Israel did not destroy. To make sure that you are able to keep this information before you, fill out the chart that follows.

The Name of the Tribe	The People They Did Not Drive Out	The Cities Those People Occupied

2. Now in light of what you have observed in these passages and in Judges 1, what does it tell you about the times, the situation in the days of the judges?

3. What is Joshua doing in this twenty-third chapter? Isn't he, as an old man, reminding the children of Israel of what God had told them through Moses? Admonishing them to listen—to walk in obedience?

Has anyone, maybe your parents, your grandparents or someone close to you, ever done that to you? Warned you not to take a certain path—and told you what would happen if you did? Were they right? Did you listen or did you resent their interference? Did you think you knew more than they? Did you despise their counsel, their age? Chafe at their words? And what happened? Jot it down.

4. Are there any lessons in all this that you could apply to your life? Or that you might share with others? List them below.

DAY
THREE

1. Read Judges 2 rapidly to get a sense of the content of this chapter. As you read, you may notice certain words repeated throughout the chapter. These are called key words.

Key words are important words the author uses throughout a chapter, a segment of scripture, or an entire book. They help unlock the meaning of the text. Color-coding them and/or marking them in a distinctive way helps you see how often and when they are used.

It is helpful to list these important words on what we call a **Key Word Bookmark** and mark them as you will do throughout the book or the Bible. You can use the back of the perforated card on the back cover of your Precept book. Marking suggestions for some frequently used words in the Bible are on the front of the card.

Below are key words and phrases you'll want to list on your Key Word Bookmark and mark throughout Judges:

- a. Specific references to the land of Canaan as given by God to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel) and his twelve sons. If you want a suggestion as to how to mark this, color it blue and double underline it in green.

If you have done any of the *Precept Upon Precept* courses on the first six books of the Bible, you will have already marked specific references to the land as promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his descendants. Mark it the same way in your Bible throughout your study of the Old Testament.

- b. The phrase *the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord* and the synonymous phrase, *they would turn back and act more corruptly*. References to *doing evil* will become a very important phrase that you will want to note and carefully mark throughout Judges.
- c. The following key words with their pronouns: *judges, anger, nations, die* and *death, test*.
- d. References to *not listening to the Lord*.
- e. *covenant*—Whenever you see the word *covenant* in your Bible, you ought to mark it for two reasons: first, because everything God does is based on covenant, and second, because God is the sovereign administrator of all covenants. If you have studied the Torah (the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible) and Joshua, then you already realize the importance of this word.
- f. References to time and geographical location as you did in chapter 1.

2. Now read Judges 2 again and this time mark the key words on your bookmark. Also put a star next to any verse in this chapter that would put you into context as to the times and people of the events in Judges 1-2.
3. Check the map, "Locations in Judges 1-3," so you can see where Gilgal and Bochim are located. Did you see why they named the place Bochim? The text tells you in verses 4 and 5. Write it out.
 - a. How completely would you say you obey God's Word?
 - b. Are there specific areas in which you have not obeyed God, where you have known what to do, what was right, and yet you did not do it? List them below in the left-hand column. Then list what happened as a result. Don't hesitate to write it down. No one else needs to read it.

Doing an assignment like this could mark a change in your life and take you from defeat to victory.

<p>What I didn't do that I should have done and why</p>	<p>What happened as a result</p>

- c. Take your list to the Lord and ask Him what you are to do about it.

Well, Beloved, you are off to a good start. There is nothing more important in Bible study than observing the text, discovering what it says, and then determining that you will believe and act accordingly.

Accurate, careful observation is the foundation for sound interpretation and application. You are to be commended for disciplining yourself to go on to “strong meat.” It belongs, you know, to those who exercise their senses so that they can discern the true from the false. Thank you.

DAY
FOUR

1. After you begin your study time in prayer seeking God’s insight and wisdom, read Judges 2 and write “idolatry” in the margin next to any verses that show idolatry among the Israelites.
2. What progression do you see in Judges 2:11-19 once the sons of Israel do evil in the sight of the Lord and serve the Baals? List it below.

3. How do you see God responding in Judges 2:20-23 and why?

4. What do you learn about God in this chapter?

5. According to Judges 2:20-23 what do the nations become to Israel?

6. Now taking the 5 Ws and an H—who, what, when where, why, how, record what these two chapters tell you with respect to the “whos” of the times, what is happening, when it is happening, where it is happening, and why. Include the spiritual and moral climate of the times—and any indication of how it happened.

Record your insights in a way that makes sense to you so that you can discuss it when you meet with your Precept group. You will find a page at the end of this lesson entitled “The Historical Setting of Judges” on which you can record your insights. It need not be elaborate...just the facts!

7. Now record the main theme or event that is covered in Judges 1 and Judges 2 on the appropriate chapter lines on the “Judges at a Glance” chart in the Appendix.

DAY
FIVE

1. Your assignment today is to read Judges 17–21, straight through as you would read several chapters of an interesting book.

- a. Mark in a distinctive way every reference to *there being no king in Israel* and/or *every man doing what is right in his own eyes*. The phrase is first used in the book of Judges in 17:6 and is found in no other segment of Judges apart from these final chapters in the book.

- b. Note on the lines below the major sin or sins that are exposed in each chapter.

Judges 17 _____

Judges 18 _____

Judges 19 _____

Judges 20 _____

Judges 21 _____

2. Now how do these final chapters help you understand the times of the Judges?

3. Do you see any parallels to today? If so how?

4. If you have time, feel free to consult any commentaries you have on Judges 1 and 2. Don't go beyond chapter 2 since doing so would spoil your joy of discovery.
5. Finally, what is the most significant thing you have learned in this first week of study that has spoken to you personally?

May we commend you for wanting to know what God says and disciplining yourself to discover truth for yourself rather than doing what is right in your own eyes. We have some exciting weeks of study before us that will give you great insight into the times in which we are living.

Press on, valiant one—and remember you are beloved of God.

The Historical Setting of Judges

JUDGES 1
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- NOW** it came about after the death of Joshua that the sons of Israel inquired of the LORD, saying, “Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?”
- 2 The LORD said, “Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand.”
 - 3 Then Judah said to Simeon his brother, “Come up with me into the territory allotted me, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I in turn will go with you into the territory allotted you.” So Simeon went with him.
 - 4 Judah went up, and the LORD gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hands, and they defeated ten thousand men at Bezek.
 - 5 They found Adoni-bezek in Bezek and fought against him, and they defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites.
 - 6 But Adoni-bezek fled; and they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and big toes.
 - 7 Adoni-bezek said, “Seventy kings with their thumbs and their big toes cut off used to gather up *scraps* under my table; as I have done, so God has repaid me.” So they brought him to Jerusalem and he died there.
 - 8 Then the sons of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire.
 - 9 Afterward the sons of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites living in the hill country and in the Negev and in the lowland.
 - 10 So Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron (now the name of Hebron formerly *was* Kiriath-arba); and they struck Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai.

- 11 Then from there he went against the inhabitants of Debir (now the name of Debir formerly *was* Kiriath-sepher).
- 12 And Caleb said, “The one who attacks Kiriath-sepher and captures it, I will even give him my daughter Achsah for a wife.”
- 13 Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother, captured it; so he gave him his daughter Achsah for a wife.
- 14 Then it came about when she came *to him*, that she persuaded him to ask her father for a field. Then she alighted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, “What do you want?”
- 15 She said to him, “Give me a blessing, since you have given me the land of the Negev, give me also springs of water.” So Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.
- 16 The descendants of the Kenite, Moses’ father-in-law, went up from the city of palms with the sons of Judah, to the wilderness of Judah which is in the south of Arad; and they went and lived with the people.
- 17 Then Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they struck the Canaanites living in Zephath, and utterly destroyed it. So the name of the city was called Hormah.
- 18 And Judah took Gaza with its territory and Ashkelon with its territory and Ekron with its territory.
- 19 Now the LORD was with Judah, and they took possession of the hill country; but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley because they had iron chariots.
- 20 Then they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses had promised; and he drove out from there the three sons of Anak.
- 21 But the sons of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem; so the Jebusites have lived with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

- 22 Likewise the house of Joseph went up against Bethel, and the LORD was with them.
- 23 The house of Joseph spied out Bethel (now the name of the city was formerly Luz).
- 24 The spies saw a man coming out of the city and they said to him, “Please show us the entrance to the city and we will treat you kindly.”
- 25 So he showed them the entrance to the city, and they struck the city with the edge of the sword, but they let the man and all his family go free.
- 26 The man went into the land of the Hittites and built a city and named it Luz which is its name to this day.
- 27 But Manasseh did not take possession of Beth-shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages; so the Canaanites persisted in living in that land.
- 28 It came about when Israel became strong, that they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but they did not drive them out completely.
- 29 Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who were living in Gezer; so the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them.
- 30 Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, or the inhabitants of Nahalol; so the Canaanites lived among them and became subject to forced labor.
- 31 Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco, or the inhabitants of Sidon, or of Ahlab, or of Achzib, or of Helbah, or of Aphik, or of Rehob.
- 32 So the Asherites lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out.
- 33 Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-anath, but lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; and the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and Beth-anath became forced labor for them.

- 34 Then the Amorites forced the sons of Dan into the hill country, for they did not allow them to come down to the valley;
- 35 yet the Amorites persisted in living in Mount Heres, in Aijalon and in Shaalbim; but when the power of the house of Joseph grew strong, they became forced labor.
- 36 The border of the Amorites ran from the ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela and upward.

JUDGES 2
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- NOW the angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said,
“I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land which I have sworn
to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you,
2 and as for you, you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land;
you shall tear down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed Me; what is this
you have done?
3 “Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they will
become *as thorns* in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you.’ ”
4 When the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the sons of Israel, the
people lifted up their voices and wept.
5 So they named that place Bochim; and there they sacrificed to the LORD.
6 When Joshua had dismissed the people, the sons of Israel went each to his
inheritance to possess the land.
7 The people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the
elders who survived Joshua, who had seen all the great work of the LORD
which He had done for Israel.
8 Then Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of one
hundred and ten.
9 And they buried him in the territory of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in
the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.
10 All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose
another generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor yet the work
which He had done for Israel.

- 11 Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals,
- 12 and they forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from *among* the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the LORD to anger.
- 13 So they forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtaroath.
- 14 The anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He gave them into the hands of plunderers who plundered them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies around *them*, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies.
- 15 Wherever they went, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had spoken and as the LORD had sworn to them, so that they were severely distressed.
- 16 Then the LORD raised up judges who delivered them from the hands of those who plundered them.
- 17 Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they played the harlot after other gods and bowed themselves down to them. They turned aside quickly from the way in which their fathers had walked in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do as *their fathers*.
- 18 When the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed and afflicted them.
- 19 But it came about when the judge died, that they would turn back and act more corruptly than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them and bow down to them; they did not abandon their practices or their stubborn ways.

- 20 So the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He said, “Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers and has not listened to My voice,
- 21 I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died,
- 22 in order to test Israel by them, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk in it as their fathers did, or not.”
- 23 So the LORD allowed those nations to remain, not driving them out quickly; and He did not give them into the hand of Joshua.

JUDGES 17
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW there was a man of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Micah.

2 He said to his mother, “The eleven hundred *pieces* of silver which were taken from you, about which you uttered a curse in my hearing, behold, the silver is with me; I took it.” And his mother said, “Blessed be my son by the LORD.”

3 He then returned the eleven hundred *pieces* of silver to his mother, and his mother said, “I wholly dedicate the silver from my hand to the LORD for my son to make a graven image and a molten image; now therefore, I will return them to you.”

4 So when he returned the silver to his mother, his mother took two hundred *pieces* of silver and gave them to the silversmith who made them into a graven image and a molten image, and they were in the house of Micah.

5 And the man Micah had a shrine and he made an ephod and household idols and consecrated one of his sons, that he might become his priest.

6 In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.

7 Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah, who was a Levite; and he was staying there.

8 Then the man departed from the city, from Bethlehem in Judah, to stay wherever he might find *a place*; and as he made his journey, he came to the hill country of Ephraim to the house of Micah.

- 9 Micah said to him, “Where do you come from?” And he said to him, “I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am going to stay wherever I may find *a place*.”
- 10 Micah then said to him, “Dwell with me and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten *pieces* of silver a year, a suit of clothes, and your maintenance.” So the Levite went *in*.
- 11 The Levite agreed to live with the man, and the young man became to him like one of his sons.
- 12 So Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest and lived in the house of Micah.
- 13 Then Micah said, “Now I know that the LORD will prosper me, seeing I have a Levite as priest.”

JUDGES 18
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

IN those days there was no king of Israel; and in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking an inheritance for themselves to live in, for until that day an inheritance had not been allotted to them as a possession among the tribes of Israel.

- 2 So the sons of Dan sent from their family five men out of their whole number, valiant men from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and to search it; and they said to them, “Go, search the land.” And they came to the hill country of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and lodged there.
- 3 When they were near the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young man, the Levite; and they turned aside there and said to him, “Who brought you here? And what are you doing in this *place*? And what do you have here?”
- 4 He said to them, “Thus and so has Micah done to me, and he has hired me and I have become his priest.”
- 5 They said to him, “Inquire of God, please, that we may know whether our way on which we are going will be prosperous.”
- 6 The priest said to them, “Go in peace; your way in which you are going has the LORD’S approval.”
- 7 Then the five men departed and came to Laish and saw the people who were in it living in security, after the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and secure; for there was no ruler humiliating *them* for anything in the land, and they were far from the Sidonians and had no dealings with anyone.
- 8 When they came back to their brothers at Zorah and Eshtaol, their brothers said to them, “What *do* you *report*?”

- 9 They said, “Arise, and let us go up against them; for we have seen the land, and behold, it is very good. And will you sit still? Do not delay to go, to enter, to possess the land.
- 10 “When you enter, you will come to a secure people with a spacious land; for God has given it into your hand, a place where there is no lack of anything that is on the earth.”
- 11 Then from the family of the Danites, from Zorah and from Eshtaol, six hundred men armed with weapons of war set out.
- 12 They went up and camped at Kiriath-jearim in Judah. Therefore they called that place Mahaneh-dan to this day; behold, it is west of Kiriath-jearim.
- 13 They passed from there to the hill country of Ephraim and came to the house of Micah.
- 14 Then the five men who went to spy out the country of Laish said to their kinsmen, “Do you know that there are in these houses an ephod and household idols and a graven image and a molten image? Now therefore, consider what you should do.”
- 15 They turned aside there and came to the house of the young man, the Levite, to the house of Micah, and asked him of his welfare.
- 16 The six hundred men armed with their weapons of war, who were of the sons of Dan, stood by the entrance of the gate.
- 17 Now the five men who went to spy out the land went up *and* entered there, *and* took the graven image and the ephod and household idols and the molten image, while the priest stood by the entrance of the gate with the six hundred men armed with weapons of war.
- 18 When these went into Micah’s house and took the graven image, the ephod and household idols and the molten image, the priest said to them, “What are you doing?”

- 19 They said to him, “Be silent, put your hand over your mouth and come with us, and be to us a father and a priest. Is it better for you to be a priest to the house of one man, or to be priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?”
- 20 The priest’s heart was glad, and he took the ephod and household idols and the graven image and went among the people.
- 21 Then they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the livestock and the valuables in front of them.
- 22 When they had gone some distance from the house of Micah, the men who *were* in the houses near Micah’s house assembled and overtook the sons of Dan.
- 23 They cried to the sons of Dan, who turned around and said to Micah, “What is *the matter* with you, that you have assembled together?”
- 24 He said, “You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and have gone away, and what do I have besides? So how can you say to me, ‘What is *the matter* with you?’ ”
- 25 The sons of Dan said to him, “Do not let your voice be heard among us, or else fierce men will fall upon you and you will lose your life, with the lives of your household.”
- 26 So the sons of Dan went on their way; and when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back to his house.
- 27 Then they took what Micah had made and the priest who had belonged to him, and came to Laish, to a people quiet and secure, and struck them with the edge of the sword; and they burned the city with fire.
- 28 And there was no one to deliver *them*, because it was far from Sidon and they had no dealings with anyone, and it was in the valley which is near Beth-rehob. And they rebuilt the city and lived in it.
- 29 They called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father who was born in Israel; however, the name of the city formerly was Laish.

- 30 The sons of Dan set up for themselves the graven image; and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land.
- 31 So they set up for themselves Micah's graven image which he had made, all the time that the house of God was at Shiloh.

JUDGES 19
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW it came about in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite staying in the remote part of the hill country of Ephraim, who took a concubine for himself from Bethlehem in Judah.

- 2 But his concubine played the harlot against him, and she went away from him to her father's house in Bethlehem in Judah, and was there for a period of four months.
- 3 Then her husband arose and went after her to speak tenderly to her in order to bring her back, taking with him his servant and a pair of donkeys. So she brought him into her father's house, and when the girl's father saw him, he was glad to meet him.
- 4 His father-in-law, the girl's father, detained him; and he remained with him three days. So they ate and drank and lodged there.
- 5 Now on the fourth day they got up early in the morning, and he prepared to go; and the girl's father said to his son-in-law, "Sustain yourself with a piece of bread, and afterward you may go."
- 6 So both of them sat down and ate and drank together; and the girl's father said to the man, "Please be willing to spend the night, and let your heart be merry."
- 7 Then the man arose to go, but his father-in-law urged him so that he spent the night there again.
- 8 On the fifth day he arose to go early in the morning, and the girl's father said, "Please sustain yourself, and wait until afternoon"; so both of them ate.

- 9 When the man arose to go along with his concubine and servant, his father-in-law, the girl's father, said to him, "Behold now, the day has drawn to a close; please spend the night. Lo, the day is coming to an end; spend the night here that your heart may be merry. Then tomorrow you may arise early for your journey so that you may go home."
- 10 But the man was not willing to spend the night, so he arose and departed and came to *a place* opposite Jebus (that is, Jerusalem). And there were with him a pair of saddled donkeys; his concubine also was with him.
- 11 When they *were* near Jebus, the day was almost gone; and the servant said to his master, "Please come, and let us turn aside into this city of the Jebusites and spend the night in it."
- 12 However, his master said to him, "We will not turn aside into the city of foreigners who are not of the sons of Israel; but we will go on as far as Gibeah."
- 13 He said to his servant, "Come and let us approach one of these places; and we will spend the night in Gibeah or Ramah."
- 14 So they passed along and went their way, and the sun set on them near Gibeah which belongs to Benjamin.
- 15 They turned aside there in order to enter *and* lodge in Gibeah. When they entered, they sat down in the open square of the city, for no one took them into *his* house to spend the night.
- 16 Then behold, an old man was coming out of the field from his work at evening. Now the man was from the hill country of Ephraim, and he was staying in Gibeah, but the men of the place were Benjamites.
- 17 And he lifted up his eyes and saw the traveler in the open square of the city; and the old man said, "Where are you going, and where do you come from?"

- 18 He said to him, “We are passing from Bethlehem in Judah to the remote part of the hill country of Ephraim, *for* I am from there, and I went to Bethlehem in Judah. But I am *now* going to my house, and no man will take me into his house.
- 19 “Yet there is both straw and fodder for our donkeys, and also bread and wine for me, your maidservant, and the young man who is with your servants; there is no lack of anything.”
- 20 The old man said, “Peace to you. Only let me *take care of* all your needs; however, do not spend the night in the open square.”
- 21 So he took him into his house and gave the donkeys fodder, and they washed their feet and ate and drank.
- 22 While they were celebrating, behold, the men of the city, certain worthless fellows, surrounded the house, pounding the door; and they spoke to the owner of the house, the old man, saying, “Bring out the man who came into your house that we may have relations with him.”
- 23 Then the man, the owner of the house, went out to them and said to them, “No, my fellows, please do not act so wickedly; since this man has come into my house, do not commit this act of folly.
- 24 “Here is my virgin daughter and his concubine. Please let me bring them out that you may ravish them and do to them whatever you wish. But do not commit such an act of folly against this man.”
- 25 But the men would not listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and brought *her* out to them; and they raped her and abused her all night until morning, then let her go at the approach of dawn.
- 26 As the day began to dawn, the woman came and fell down at the doorway of the man’s house where her master was, until *full* daylight.
- 27 When her master arose in the morning and opened the doors of the house and went out to go on his way, then behold, his concubine was lying at the doorway of the house with her hands on the threshold.

- 28 He said to her, “Get up and let us go,” but there was no answer. Then he placed her on the donkey; and the man arose and went to his home.
- 29 When he entered his house, he took a knife and laid hold of his concubine and cut her in twelve pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout the territory of Israel.
- 30 All who saw *it* said, “Nothing like this has *ever* happened or been seen from the day when the sons of Israel came up from the land of Egypt to this day. Consider it, take counsel and speak up!”

JUDGES 20
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THEN all the sons of Israel from Dan to Beersheba, including the land of Gilead, came out, and the congregation assembled as one man to the LORD at Mizpah.

- 2 The chiefs of all the people, *even* of all the tribes of Israel, took their stand in the assembly of the people of God, 400,000 foot soldiers who drew the sword.
- 3 (Now the sons of Benjamin heard that the sons of Israel had gone up to Mizpah.) And the sons of Israel said, “Tell *us*, how did this wickedness take place?”
- 4 So the Levite, the husband of the woman who was murdered, answered and said, “I came with my concubine to spend the night at Gibeah which belongs to Benjamin.
- 5 “But the men of Gibeah rose up against me and surrounded the house at night because of me. They intended to kill me; instead, they ravished my concubine so that she died.
- 6 “And I took hold of my concubine and cut her in pieces and sent her throughout the land of Israel’s inheritance; for they have committed a lewd and disgraceful act in Israel.
- 7 “Behold, all you sons of Israel, give your advice and counsel here.”
- 8 Then all the people arose as one man, saying, “Not one of us will go to his tent, nor will any of us return to his house.
- 9 “But now this is the thing which we will do to Gibeah; *we will go up* against it by lot.

- 10 “And we will take 10 men out of 100 throughout the tribes of Israel, and 100 out of 1,000, and 1,000 out of 10,000 to supply food for the people, that when they come to Gibeah of Benjamin, they may punish *them* for all the disgraceful acts that they have committed in Israel.”
- 11 Thus all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, united as one man.
- 12 Then the tribes of Israel sent men through the entire tribe of Benjamin, saying, “What is this wickedness that has taken place among you?”
- 13 “Now then, deliver up the men, the worthless fellows in Gibeah, that we may put them to death and remove *this* wickedness from Israel.” But the sons of Benjamin would not listen to the voice of their brothers, the sons of Israel.
- 14 The sons of Benjamin gathered from the cities to Gibeah, to go out to battle against the sons of Israel.
- 15 From the cities on that day the sons of Benjamin were numbered, 26,000 men who draw the sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah who were numbered, 700 choice men.
- 16 Out of all these people 700 choice men were left-handed; each one could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.
- 17 Then the men of Israel besides Benjamin were numbered, 400,000 men who draw the sword; all these were men of war.
- 18 Now the sons of Israel arose, went up to Bethel, and inquired of God and said, “Who shall go up first for us to battle against the sons of Benjamin?” Then the LORD said, “Judah *shall go up* first.”
- 19 So the sons of Israel arose in the morning and camped against Gibeah.
- 20 The men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin, and the men of Israel arrayed for battle against them at Gibeah.
- 21 Then the sons of Benjamin came out of Gibeah and felled to the ground on that day 22,000 men of Israel.
- 22 But the people, the men of Israel, encouraged themselves and arrayed for battle again in the place where they had arrayed themselves the first day.

- 23 The sons of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until evening, and inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall we again draw near for battle against the sons of my brother Benjamin?” And the LORD said, “Go up against him.”
- 24 Then the sons of Israel came against the sons of Benjamin the second day.
- 25 Benjamin went out against them from Gibeah the second day and felled to the ground again 18,000 men of the sons of Israel; all these drew the sword.
- 26 Then all the sons of Israel and all the people went up and came to Bethel and wept; thus they remained there before the LORD and fasted that day until evening. And they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.
- 27 The sons of Israel inquired of the LORD (for the ark of the covenant of God *was* there in those days,
- 28 and Phinehas the son of Eleazar, Aaron’s son, stood before it to *minister* in those days), saying, “Shall I yet again go out to battle against the sons of my brother Benjamin, or shall I cease?” And the LORD said, “Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand.”
- 29 So Israel set men in ambush around Gibeah.
- 30 The sons of Israel went up against the sons of Benjamin on the third day and arrayed themselves against Gibeah as at other times.
- 31 The sons of Benjamin went out against the people and were drawn away from the city, and they began to strike and kill some of the people as at other times, on the highways, one of which goes up to Bethel and the other to Gibeah, *and* in the field, about thirty men of Israel.
- 32 The sons of Benjamin said, “They are struck down before us, as at the first.” But the sons of Israel said, “Let us flee that we may draw them away from the city to the highways.”

- 33 Then all the men of Israel arose from their place and arrayed themselves at Baal-tamar; and the men of Israel in ambush broke out of their place, even out of Maareh-geba.
- 34 When ten thousand choice men from all Israel came against Gibeah, the battle became fierce; but Benjamin did not know that disaster was close to them.
- 35 And the LORD struck Benjamin before Israel, so that the sons of Israel destroyed 25,100 men of Benjamin that day, all who draw the sword.
- 36 So the sons of Benjamin saw that they were defeated. When the men of Israel gave ground to Benjamin because they relied on the men in ambush whom they had set against Gibeah,
- 37 the men in ambush hurried and rushed against Gibeah; the men in ambush also deployed and struck all the city with the edge of the sword.
- 38 Now the appointed sign between the men of Israel and the men in ambush was that they would make a great cloud of smoke rise from the city.
- 39 Then the men of Israel turned in the battle, and Benjamin began to strike and kill about thirty men of Israel, for they said, “Surely they are defeated before us, as in the first battle.”
- 40 But when the cloud began to rise from the city in a column of smoke, Benjamin looked behind them; and behold, the whole city was going up *in smoke* to heaven.
- 41 Then the men of Israel turned, and the men of Benjamin were terrified; for they saw that disaster was close to them.
- 42 Therefore, they turned their backs before the men of Israel toward the direction of the wilderness, but the battle overtook them while those who came out of the cities destroyed them in the midst of them.
- 43 They surrounded Benjamin, pursued them without rest *and* trod them down opposite Gibeah toward the east.
- 44 Thus 18,000 men of Benjamin fell; all these were valiant warriors.

- 45 The rest turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon, but they caught 5,000 of them on the highways and overtook them at Gidom and killed 2,000 of them.
- 46 So all of Benjamin who fell that day were 25,000 men who draw the sword; all these were valiant warriors.
- 47 But 600 men turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon, and they remained at the rock of Rimmon four months.
- 48 The men of Israel then turned back against the sons of Benjamin and struck them with the edge of the sword, both the entire city with the cattle and all that they found; they also set on fire all the cities which they found.

JUDGES 21
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpah, saying, “None of us shall give his daughter to Benjamin in marriage.”

- 2 So the people came to Bethel and sat there before God until evening, and lifted up their voices and wept bitterly.
- 3 They said, “Why, O LORD, God of Israel, has this come about in Israel, so that one tribe should be *missing* today in Israel?”
- 4 It came about the next day that the people arose early and built an altar there and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.
- 5 Then the sons of Israel said, “Who is there among all the tribes of Israel who did not come up in the assembly to the LORD?” For they had taken a great oath concerning him who did not come up to the LORD at Mizpah, saying, “He shall surely be put to death.”
- 6 And the sons of Israel were sorry for their brother Benjamin and said, “One tribe is cut off from Israel today.
- 7 “What shall we do for wives for those who are left, since we have sworn by the LORD not to give them any of our daughters in marriage?”
- 8 And they said, “What one is there of the tribes of Israel who did not come up to the LORD at Mizpah?” And behold, no one had come to the camp from Jabesh-gilead to the assembly.
- 9 For when the people were numbered, behold, not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead was there.

- 10 And the congregation sent 12,000 of the valiant warriors there, and commanded them, saying, “Go and strike the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the edge of the sword, with the women and the little ones.
- 11 “This is the thing that you shall do: you shall utterly destroy every man and every woman who has lain with a man.”
- 12 And they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead 400 young virgins who had not known a man by lying with him; and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.
- 13 Then the whole congregation sent *word* and spoke to the sons of Benjamin who were at the rock of Rimmon, and proclaimed peace to them.
- 14 Benjamin returned at that time, and they gave them the women whom they had kept alive from the women of Jabesh-gilead; yet they were not enough for them.
- 15 And the people were sorry for Benjamin because the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.
- 16 Then the elders of the congregation said, “What shall we do for wives for those who are left, since the women are destroyed out of Benjamin?”
- 17 They said, “*There must be* an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin, so that a tribe will not be blotted out from Israel.
- 18 “But we cannot give them wives of our daughters.” For the sons of Israel had sworn, saying, “Cursed is he who gives a wife to Benjamin.”
- 19 So they said, “Behold, there is a feast of the LORD from year to year in Shiloh, which is on the north side of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and on the south side of Lebonah.”
- 20 And they commanded the sons of Benjamin, saying, “Go and lie in wait in the vineyards,

- 21 and watch; and behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to take part in the dances, then you shall come out of the vineyards and each of you shall catch his wife from the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.
- 22 “It shall come about, when their fathers or their brothers come to complain to us, that we shall say to them, ‘Give them to us voluntarily, because we did not take for each man *of Benjamin* a wife in battle, nor did you give *them* to them, *else* you would now be guilty.’ ”
- 23 The sons of Benjamin did so, and took wives according to their number from those who danced, whom they carried away. And they went and returned to their inheritance and rebuilt the cities and lived in them.
- 24 The sons of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family, and each one of them went out from there to his inheritance.
- 25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

JUDGES AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

	Chapter Themes	Judges	Oppressors	Segment Divisions
Author:	1			
Date:	2			
Purpose:	3			
	4			
Key Words/ Phrases:	5			
	6			
	7			
	8			
	9			
	10			
	11			
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Locations in Judges 1-3



