

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 03-Jun.....	Joshua 1:1-18
2) 10-Jun.....	Joshua 2:1 – 6:27
3) 17-Jun.....	Joshua 7:2 – 12:24
4) 24-Jun.....	Joshua 13:1 – 22:34
5) 01-Jul.....	Joshua 23:1 – 24:33
6) 08-Jul.....	Judges 1:1 – 3:6
7) 15-Jul.....	Judges 3:7 – 5:31
8) 22-Jul.....	Judges 6:1 – 8:21
9) 29-Jul.....	Judges 8:22 – 12:15
10) 05-Aug.....	Judges 13:1 – 16:31
11) 12-Aug.....	Judges 17:1 – 21:25
12) 19-Aug.....	Ruth 1:1 – 2:23
13) 26-Aug.....	Ruth 3:1 – 4:22

INTRODUCTION

- The author of this book was most probably Samuel who would have composed it during Saul's reign (MH Commentary)
- In the years between Joshua and King Saul, God used the Levites to administer local justice along with a God-appointed "Judge" who rallied the troops on a national scale to help fight off oppressors
- These judges consisted of 17 men and 1 woman (Deborah) who provided sporadic rule over a 300 year period (see table at bottom)
- Five of the judges of Israel were deemed worthy to be included in the Hebrews' Hall of Faith – Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah and Samuel (Hebrews 11:32)
- God raised up these judges to bring some relief to the Israelites as they experienced judgment for their waywardness
- Unfortunately, Israel's moral state was spiraling downhill and reaching ever new lows of depravity

Passage	Comments
2:1-23 (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv11-13. The Israelites did what was evil by worshipping the Baals. Baal (male) & Ashtoreth (female) worship involved sexual practices • The Israelites did the unthinkable – they worshipped the false gods of the people they conquered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Israel captured Canaan, but Canaan captured Israel's lustful heart – Sex had priority in their lives • The wicked do not consider the consequences of their sinful actions..... Proverbs 5:6 • v15. Israel was being beaten down both by their enemies and by God What would fix this problem? • vv16-19. Judges were the answer – if only they listened <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ God chose to rescue His people not because of their righteousness or their prayers, but while they were suffering sinners God showed His loveRom 5:8 • vv20-23. God was not going to bless Israel for their despicable behavior – He was going to test them
3:1-6	<p>God Did Not Abandon Israel – But Proved Them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The remaining Canaanites accomplished the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They taught the Israelites the art of war (v2) 2. They were a challenge for Israel to obey God (v4) 3. However, they confirmed Israel's loyalty to serve their lusts by chasing other women and giving their women away (v6) – Sex was more important

Passage	Comments
Judges 1:1-36	<p>Israel went from Conquerors to Cowards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. After Joshua died Israel still "inquired of the Lord" • vv8, 21, 19, 27-33. Problems are soon perceived in Israel's inability to fully capture Jerusalem and the presence of Canaanites persistently living in the land • v34. We finally see the tribe of Dan escaping into the hill country to avoid conflict with the Amorites
2:1-23	<p>Cycle of Apostasy – Punishment – Restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v10. A generation rose up who did not know the Lord <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We are always one generation away from apostasy ◆ Does each generation NEED to witness such wonders of God as those done in Egypt?..... 2Cor 5:7

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Is America going in the same direction as the Israelites of this time period? It sure does look like it with promiscuous and alternative lifestyles being readily accepted – We are chasing after our lusts
- Can we expect similar chastisement from God? You be the judge – consider wars that now last for decades, increased earthquakes, more devastating weather phenomena
 - ◆ Next on the hit list is shortage of basic necessities (food, water, fuel, shelter) and increase in communicable diseases
- God can work with a monarchy, a democracy, a communist regime, a socialist, even a dictatorship style government, but His ideal future government is a theocracy with Christ as King over all
- Let's continue to pray for our country, our government leaders that God will bless and sustain while He still gives us time to serve Him

NEXT WEEK: **Judges 3-5.** Deborah and Barak restore some order and provide some relief to the oppressed Israelites

Judge	Tribe	Enemy	Years of Bondage	Years of Rest	Passage	# Verses
1. Othniel	Judah	Mesopotamia	8	40	Judges 3:7-11	4
2. Ehud	Benjamin	Moabites	18	80	Judges 3:12-30	19
3. Shamgar	Unknown	Philistines	–	–	Judges 3:31	1
4 & 5. Deborah (prophetess) & Barak	Unknown	Canaanites	20	40	Judges 4:1-5:31	51
6. Gideon	Manasseh	Midianites	7	40	Judges 6:1-8:28	100
7. Abimelech (king)	Manasseh	Himself	–	3	Judges 9:1-57	57
8. Tola	Issachar	Philistines	–	23	Judges 10:1-2	2
9. Jair	Gileadite	Philistines	–	22	Judges 10:3-5	3
10. Jephthah	Gileadite	Ammonites	18	6	Judges 10:6-12:7	60
11. Ibzon	Bethlemite	Ammonites	–	7	Judges 12:8-10	3
12. Elon	Zebulunite	Ammonites	–	10	Judges 12:11-12	2
13. Abdon	Pirathonite	Ammonites	–	8	Judges 12:13-15	3
14. Samson	Dan	Philistines	40	20	Judges 13:1-16:31	96
15. Eli (High Priest)	Levi	Philistines	–	40	1Samuel 1-4	101
16. Samuel	Levi	Philistines	–	–	1Samuel 7:1-17	17
17 & 18. Joel & Abijah	Levi	Philistines	–	–	1Samuel 8:1-3	3