

"Yahweh raised up JUDGES which delivered them."

2007 California Christadelphian Kids Camp
Intermediate Workbook

Name _____

Parent's signature _____

~please sign when workbook has been completed~

Welcome to your study of The Judges!



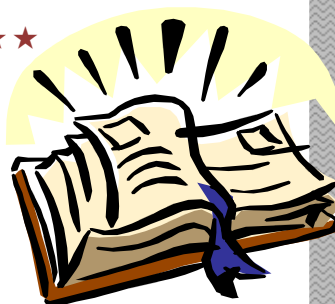
You will need the following books for this study:

There are some books you will HAVE to have for your study:

1. King James Version Bible (a King James Version is mandatory, although additional versions can be helpful)
2. Strong's Concordance
3. A Dictionary (Webster's, or similar)
4. A Bible Dictionary (we used Nelson's and Smiths)

There are some books that are NICE to have, and will make your studying easier:

1. Christadelphian Works Bible software
2. The Story of the Bible, Volume 2
3. The Judges, by John Martin
5. Atlas, or maps of Bible Lands.



This workbook will help you get your studies of the Judges started. If you come across something that you find interesting that you'd like to know more about, *keep on studying it*. Don't stop where this workbook stops; this workbook is just a good way to *begin* your studying; there's always more to learn. Ask your parents, your aunts and uncles in your ecclesia, or your Kids Camp counselors. If you have a question about something and can't find the answer, write it down so you can ask someone at Kids Camp.

*REMEMBER – the Bible is GOD speaking to you! Let's not forget that. Reading the Bible is the ONLY way we can hear what God wants us to hear...
Think about that.*

Bible Study



*The BEST way to begin your study – any study- is to pray. God will help you to understand His word, if you ask. The second step is to **READ WHAT GOD SAYS**. Read your Bible.*

We HIGHLY recommend you begin by reading the book of Judges FIRST.

It doesn't take all that long, and it will REALLY help.

A great way to do this is by incorporating the reading of it into your daily Bible readings. The Chapters we'll be studying in this workbook are **Judges 1-9, and 13-18**

Once you've read through the chapters, THEN begin your study.

At the beginning of each section there is chapter to read and a summary. Even though you've already read through the book, re-read the chapter, and carefully read the summary before you answer the questions.

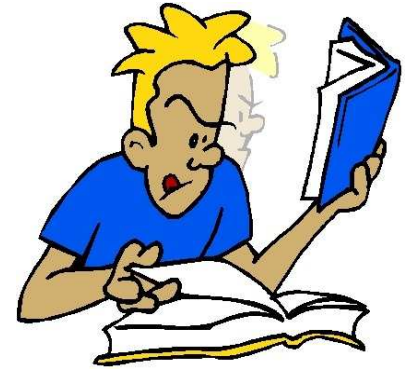
This will make answering the questions a lot easier.

Don't try to take a 'shortcut' and try to answer the questions *without reading the Bible*. You will find it's **not** a shortcut after all, and *more importantly* you will not get as much out of your study ~ ***which is the reason for doing this workbook in the first place!*** 😊



The more you prepare now,
the better prepared you'll be for Camp.

Most of the questions in this workbook can be answered by just reading the chapters and understanding what God has written.



However, there are times when a bit more effort is required.

Here is an explanation of the other types of questions asked in this workbook.

Research These are questions that cannot be answered just by reading the chapter. Extra research will need to be done to find the answers. Look in other places in the Bible, in the concordance, Bible Dictionary, or other reference books to find the answers.

Get Some Help These are advanced questions which could require explanations from your parents, or aunts and uncles in the ecclesia.

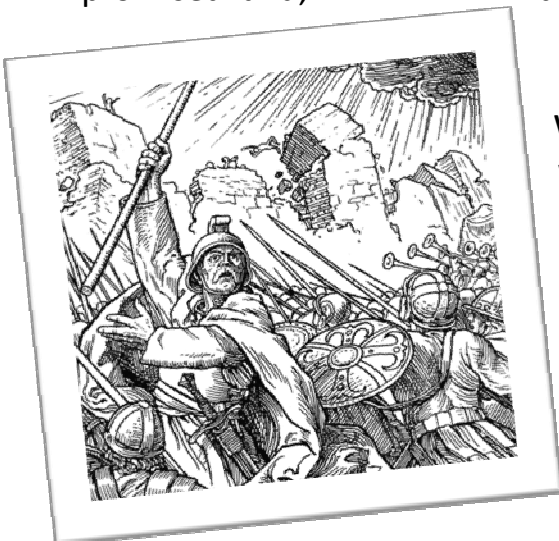
Mark Your Bible This is pretty self-explanatory.
Put the information shown into the margin of your Bible.

“Yahweh Raised Up Judges Which Delivered Them.”

As we begin to read in the book of Judges we can tell that things were very different for the children of Israel than ever before in their history. They were now in their land that God had promised them, but who would be their leader? For the last eighty years or so they had been led through their difficulties by two very powerful leaders; leaders that had been given the power of Yahweh to help.

First they had **Moses** who went up against Pharaoh, the most powerful man on earth, and helped deliver them from Egypt by the great plagues. Moses represented Israel before Yahweh on Mt. Sinai and was given God’s Law for His people.

After Moses’ death they had another great leader given to them from Yahweh, named **Joshua**. He led the people in battle against some of the fiercest armies of his time: conquering great cities and bringing down towering walls. Through Yahweh’s power and Joshua’s great strength and courage he brought the people into the promised land, defeating the armies of Canaanites.



Who would lead them, now that Joshua was dead? Who would deliver them from their enemies? Who would tell them right from wrong? How would they know what to do and how to live their lives?

In the book of the Judges we find that Yahweh provided for them in two ways.

- 1- They had the law that He had given to Moses that showed them right from wrong and how to live their lives.
- 2- They had men and women that were given to them by Yahweh to deliver them from their enemies and bring them back to Yahweh’s law.

These men and women were called **Judges**.

Yahweh

The Name of our God.

It means, “He Who Will Be”

God’s name helps us to understand His purpose with us and with the earth.

Yahweh: He Who Will Be revealed to the world in a group of people.

These Judges had an important role in governing Israel before Israel had a king.

But what were JUDGES?

Let's Find Out:

1. Exodus 18:15-16: What do these verses tell us about what a judge was supposed to do?

2. Exodus 18:21-22: What three characteristics did men that were to be judges need to possess? _____

3. Read Judges 2:16: Who raised up the judges that delivered the children of Israel out of the hands of them that spoiled them? _____



Read Judges Chapter 1

Israel Compromised Yahweh's Commands

It is important to realize that although Joshua had defeated the Canaanite armies and Israel had taken control of the land, there were still Canaanites living throughout the promised land. The Israelites had been commanded by Yahweh to smite the Canaanites, and to *utterly* destroy them. But they had not.

Canaanites

A nation that lived in the promised land.

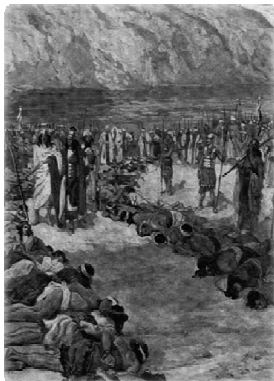
The term *Canaanites* is often used as a broad term, representing **all** the nations that were living in the land that was conquered by Joshua.

They were a people that believed in many gods: gods made of wood and stone and metal.

1. Read Deuteronomy 20:16-18: Yahweh made it very clear to the Israelites that they had to utterly destroy the Canaanites. For what reason did Yahweh tell them to destroy the Canaanites? _____

2. Read Deuteronomy 7:1-4: Yahweh told the Israelites not to allow their sons and daughters to marry Canaanites. What would be the result if they did? _____

The big problem of the times of the Judges was that the people did not obey Yahweh's command to utterly destroy the Canaanite nations and to show no mercy to them. Instead they kept His commands only when they wanted to; only when it did not go against what they thought sounded right to them. They **compromised** (only *partly* kept) His commands and allowed the Canaanites to live among them and allowed their children to marry Canaanites. They compromised the commands of Yahweh in order to make their lives easier and more pleasing to themselves. They didn't have to risk their lives in battle, they didn't have to kill the Canaanites without showing mercy and they, in



many cases, were able to make the Canaanites into servants that labored for them and made their lives easier. It all seemed to be great. But they were breaking the commands of Yahweh.

We must be sure that **we** do not compromise the commands of Yahweh to make our lives easier or more pleasing to us. If we do, we will find that in the end, our lives will only be much more difficult. That was the lesson that Israel was about to learn.

Idols:
*Anything that
takes us away
from serving
Yahweh.*

- 3- What question did the children of Israel ask after the death of Joshua?

- 4- What tribe did Judah ask to help him in his fight against the Canaanites? _____
- 5- How many Canaanites and Perizzites did they kill in Bezek? _____
- 6- What did they do to Adoni-bezek after they caught him? _____
- 7- What should they have done to him? (hint: Deut. 7:2) _____
- 8- “Now the children of _____ had fought against _____ and had taken it, and _____ it with the edge of the _____, and set the city on _____.”
- 9- Which King of Israel finally took Jerusalem from the Jebusites? *Research* _____
- 10- Caleb was one of the twelve spies that went into the land of Canaan in Numbers 13:29-30. What did he think about conquering the Canaanites? _____



11- The events of Judges 1:8-15 are recounted from the book of Joshua; they show how faithful Caleb and his family were in driving out the Canaanites. Why do you think that these events are repeated here in Judges? _____

12- How was Othniel related to Caleb? _____

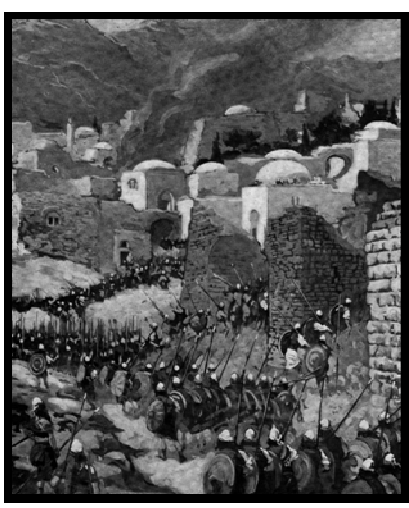
13- What city is referred to as 'the city of palm trees'? *Research* _____

14- Why couldn't Judah drive out the inhabitants of the valley? _____

15- The city of Hebron was given to Caleb. Who lived and was buried at Hebron? *Research*

16- Why are we told that Caleb expelled the three sons of Anak? (hint Num. 13:28-33)

17- We are told that when Israel was strong they put the Canaanites to tribute. What does this mean? *Research*



18- In what ways do you think Israel **compromised** Yahweh's commands? Give at least two ways.

19- Why do you think the Israelites disobeyed Yahweh by not *completely* destroying the nations of Canaan? Give at least three reasons. _____

20- Connect each tribe to the correct column on the right to show how each of the tribes did in driving out the Canaanite nations:

TRIBE

THEIR COMPROMISE

Judah	
children of Benjamin	did not drive out the inhabitants, but the Canaanites dwelt in the land and paid tribute
house of Joseph	drove out inhabitants of mountains but not the valley
Manasseh	did not drive out the Jebusites , they dwelled with them
Ephraim	promised to show mercy to the man who'd helped them, and to his family
Zebulun	were forced into the mountain
Asher	did not drive out the inhabitants, dwelt among the Canaanites
Naphtali	Canaanites dwelt among them
Dan	

Compromises may have more than one tribe connected to it.

Read Judges Chapter 2

The Judges Cycle

After the death of Joshua there was still a lot of work for Israel to do to keep Yahweh's command to "utterly destroy" the Canaanites. There were still many Canaanites living throughout the promised land; but as we saw in chapter one most of the tribes failed to completely keep this command. It was easier for the Israelites to allow the Canaanites to stay. It made more sense to the Israelites, who had been slaves in Egypt, to make the Canaanites their slaves rather than killing them. Their lives would be much easier because they could make the Canaanites work for them. They thought that they knew better than Yahweh and so they did not do *exactly* what Yahweh said; their reasoning told them that making these people slaves would be much better than actually killing them. It is very easy for us to do the same thing as the Israelites: allowing the things of the world a place in our lives.

1. List 3 worldly things in your life that could take you away from God. _____

2. As we start to read chapter 2 we see that Yahweh was so sad that His people were compromising his commands that He sent an angel from Gilgal to warn them. What two things did the angel say Israel had promised not to do and yet was now doing?

3. When did Gilgal get its name? *Research* _____

4. What type of plant did the angel compare the Canaanites to? _____
5. Why do you think that this is a good comparison? _____

6. What did the people do after they realized what they had done? _____

7. What does the name Bochim mean? *Research* _____
8. How old was Joshua when he died? _____
9. How long after the death of Joshua did the Israelites continue to serve Yahweh?

10. Fill In The Blanks: “and there arose another _____ after them which knew not _____ nor yet the _____ which he had done for _____.”
11. Because the next generation didn’t know Yahweh whose gods did they serve?

12. Whose fault do you think it was that the next generation did not know Yahweh?

Leaving the Canaanites alive in the land was such a big mistake that the next generation of Israelites did not even know their God! They forgot Yahweh and began to worship the gods of the Canaanites. But because Yahweh loved His people, He did not give up on them. He was *always* working to bring Israel back to Him. Throughout the book of Judges we see the same pattern followed over and over again. This pattern we call the

Judges Cycle.



The Steps Of The Judges Cycle:

SIN ---Israel sinned and turned away from Yahweh.

SUFFERING --- Israel suffered when Yahweh used the Canaanites to attack them and make them slaves.

SEEKING GOD --- Israel would cry to Yahweh for help because they were in distress.

SALVATION ---Yahweh would raise up a Judge and give him His power to fight for Israel and save them from their enemies.

13. In the second chapter of Judges, the Judges Cycle pattern is presented to us step by step:

Next to each phrase listed below write which step of the Judges Cycle it matches up to. The first one has been done for you:

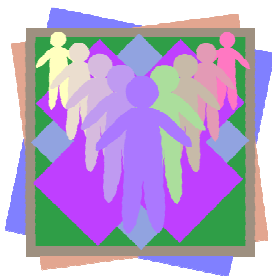
Phrase	Step Of The Judges Cycle
"They forsook the LORD God of their fathers" - - - - -	<i>Sin</i>
"They followed other gods" - - - - -	_____
"They provoked the LORD to anger" - - - - -	_____
"They served Baal and Ashteroth" - - - - -	_____
"The LORD delivered them into the hand of their enemies" - - - - -	_____
"The LORD raised up judges which delivered them" - - - - -	_____
"The LORD was against them for evil" - - - - -	_____
"The people were greatly distressed" - - - - -	_____
"The LORD was with the judge" - - - - -	_____
"The people groaned by reason of their oppressors" - - - - -	_____

14. What did the people do after the Judge that Yahweh had raised up died? _____

15. What do you think would have happened if God had given Israel a Judge that lived forever? _____

16. Find a verse that shows that Christ will be a judge in the kingdom. *Research* _____

17. When the people had a good leader with them they were able to follow Yahweh, but when that leader was not with them they began to sin. Who do you think are the good leaders in your life? _____



18. Do you act differently when you are not around one of those good leaders? _____

19. By following the pattern of the Judges Cycle what does sin bring us? _____

20. By following the pattern of the Judges Cycle what happens when we cry to Yahweh for help? _____

21. We are told that Yahweh left the nations in the land to “prove Israel” What do you think this means? *Get Some Help* _____

Read Judges Chapter 17-18

Every Man Did That Which Was Right In His Own Eyes

The events in these chapters did not take place at the end of the book of Judges as we would think; they actually took place early in the times of the Judges; so we will look at them now, early in our study. The things recorded in these chapters show us that when the period of the Judges began many of the Israelites did not do as God commanded them, but did whatever they wanted to do. They began to worship the idols and gods of the Canaanites, they began to steal from each other, and they even began to worship Yahweh with idols that they made. They became more and more like the nations that they should have driven from the land. How did this happen? Yahweh had given Moses the laws that they were supposed to keep, but now they were breaking His laws as if they didn't even know them: as if Yahweh wanted them to worship Him any way that they pleased.

Remember back to chapter two: we read that the people “knew not Yahweh.” They were not taught about Him by their parents, they did not read their Bibles and they allowed the Canaanites to influence their lives. Soon they were worshipping Yahweh the way that they thought that they should rather than the way that God had commanded them. They worshipped Yahweh and at the same time worshipped the gods and idols of the Canaanites.

1. Find a verse in the book of Exodus that shows that we should worship only Yahweh. *Research* _____

In the story of Micah we see that the Israelites did what was right in their own eyes instead of keeping the commands of God.

2. What does the name Micah mean? *Research* _____

3. What had Micah stolen from his mother? _____



4. Micah's mom said that she had "wholly dedicated the silver unto Yahweh". What had she planned to use the money for? _____

5. Find a verse in the book of Exodus that shows that this was against Yahweh's commands.

Research _____

6. Fill in the Blanks: "And the man Micah had an house of _____ and made an _____, and _____, and consecrated one of his sons who became his _____."

7. What is an ephod? *Research* _____

8. Who was supposed to wear an ephod? *Research* _____

9. What are teraphim? *Research* _____

10. Which of the Ten Commandments have already been broken in this chapter? (see Exodus 20) *Research* _____

11. Micah was setting up his own church. He had his own priest, his own gods, his own idols and he had made his son priest. His worship was completely contrary to Yahweh and yet he *thought* that he was doing a good thing! Why do you think Yahweh was unhappy with his worship? _____

12. There are many people and many churches today that claim to worship God and yet they have no idea about what God expects. Why do you think they have no idea what God expects from them? _____

13. Verse 6 tells us that there was no king in Israel. Who should have been their king? _____

14. Verse 6 also tells us, “that every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” What do you think that means? _____

15. Why is doing that which is right in our own eyes such a bad thing? (Hint: Jeremiah 17:9) *Research* _____

16. Micah seems to have realized that his house of gods needed to have a Levite as a priest so he offered to pay the Levite from Bethlehem-judah to be his priest. What did he offer to give the man if he would stay with him and be his priest?

17. In 18:30 we find out that this Levite’s name was Jonathan, and that he was the grandson of Moses. Why do you think Micah would have thought that Jonathan would have been an excellent choice for his church? _____

18. What did Micah think that Yahweh would do for him since he had a Levite for a priest? _____

19. Read Numbers 18:1-7. Who were supposed to be the priests? _____

20. Explain why Jonathan should not have been a priest. _____

21. In Judges 18:1 it says that the Danites sought an inheritance to dwell in for all their inheritance had not yet fallen to them? What does this mean? (hint: Judges 1:34) _____



Judges 18:30

“...Jonathan the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh;...” (KJV)

In the original Hebrew text, this name, “Manasseh” is actually the name, “Moses.”

Many translations of the Bible correctly put ‘Moses’ here. (see the R.V. or the R.S.V.)

The Jews that wrote out the Bible couldn’t bear to hear their great leader’s name used in association with this story, so they changed one Hebrew letter and ‘Manasseh’ became ‘Moses.’

They thought that because his grandson was wicked, it would somehow reflect badly on him.

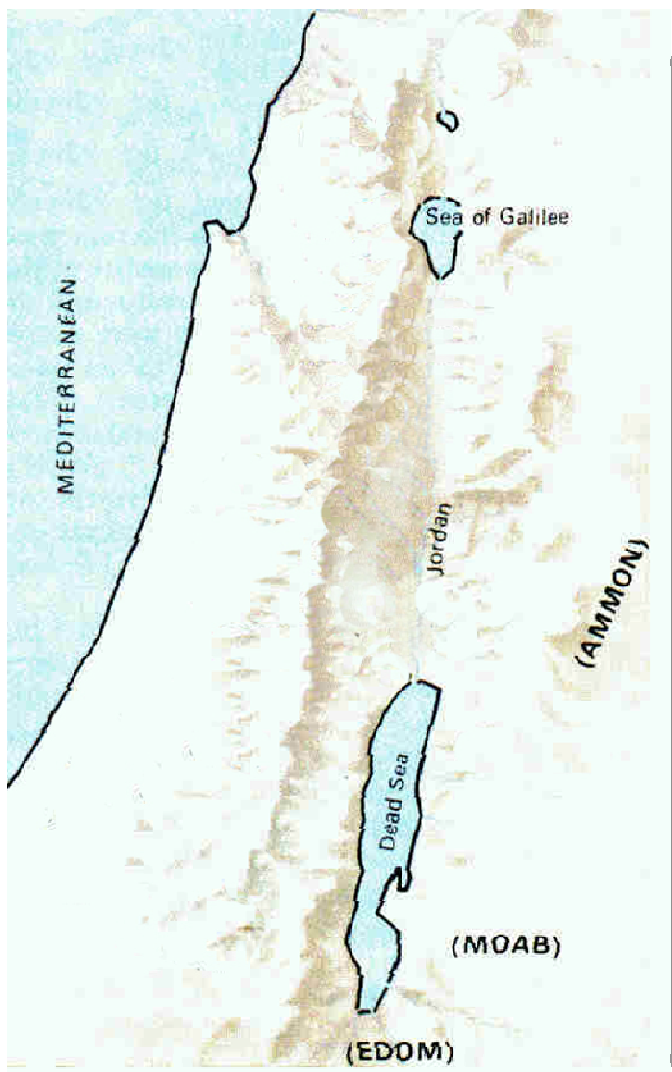
By this same reasoning, the Jews in the time of the Judges would have thought that somehow, Jonathan must be a great man, just because Moses was his grandfather.

22. Five men were sent out from the tribe of Dan to spy out the land. On their way they came to the house of Micah and lodged there. Why do you think that they came to his house? (see: Judges 17:5) _____

23. When they were there they heard the voice of Jonathan. Why might they have recognized his voice? _____

24. Why did Jonathan say that he was staying with Micah? _____

25. *Research* On the map below, show where the land was that the tribe of Dan had been given by Joshua, and the location of the city of Laish (later known as Dan) where the tribe of Dan eventually settled.



26. When the five spies returned and gave their report, who did they say had given the city of Laish into their hands? _____

27. What five things did the five spies take from Micah's house?

28. Why do you think Jonathan was happy to go with the Danites?

29. Fill in the Blanks: "And he said, Ye have taken away my _____ which I have _____ and the _____ and ye are gone away: and what have I _____?"

30. What did the Danites threaten to do to if Micah didn't stop arguing with them?



31. What did the Danites set up in the city of Dan?

32. How long did the family of Jonathan act as priests to the tribe of Dan? _____

33. Why do you think that chapter 18 ends with statement, "all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh?" Get Some Help _____



BAAL (usually pronounced "bail") was a Canaanite god. It was believed that Baal brought rain and fertility for agriculture. The word "Baal" means "lord, owner or husband", and it was used to describe a number of different Canaanite gods. It is also found in several places in the plural *Baalim*, or *Baals*. Unfortunately, the Israelites became deeply involved in the worship of the Baals.

This photo shows Baal's fictitious image from an ancient stone carving.

Read Judges Chapter 3

Yahweh Tested Israel To See If They Would Obey Him

A very important lesson is taught for us in Judges chapter 3. The chapter begins by showing the effect that the Canaanite nations had on Israel. This theme keeps coming up over and over in the book of Judges. We must not think we are any different than the people in the days of the Judges. We must keep the things of the world out of our lives or else we will forget God, and when we forget Him we will begin to think that we can worship Him in whatever way we want and He will be happy. We, as believers in God, must not allow TV, radio, iPods, video games, movies, cell phones, cars, money, friendships, jobs or anything else take us away from Yahweh. If we give our time to these things we will soon forget our God and find that we are just the same as the Israelites. **We must be sure** that we read the Word of God, that we pray, that we talk to our friends and our families about the Word of God and that we do what God tells us *every* day. As Israel should have been at war with the Canaanites so we should fight to make sure that worldly things do not cause us to forget our God.

We might ask; If the Canaanite nations were going to be such a problem for Israel why didn't God just simply remove them from the land? We will see in chapter 3 that Yahweh wanted the Israelites to choose to obey him. We will see that some chose to obey but that most did not. God wants only those that choose to serve Him. He has a special purpose for them; He will use them in His kingdom. So, the Canaanites were left by God so that He would know who would choose to obey Him.

1. Why did God leave the Canaanite nations in the land? _____
2. The word "prove" in verses 1 and 4 means "to test". God wanted to test the people to see if they would obey him or not. In Genesis 22:1 the same word is translated as 'tempt.' What did God tell Abraham to do in Genesis 22 to test Abraham? *Research*



3. Verse 2 says that God wanted to teach Israel war. This applies to us as well. In what way does God want us to war?

Get Some Help _____

4. Which 6 nations did Israel dwell among? _____

5. What three things did the Israelites do that were evil in Yahweh's sight?

OTHNIEL

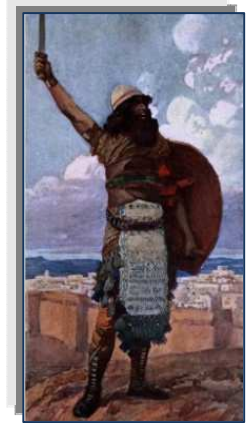
6. From Judges 3:7-11 answer the following questions.

- **SIN-** What sins did Israel commit?

- **SUFFERING-** Who did Yahweh use to make the Israelites suffer?

- **SEEKING GOD-** What did the Israelites do when they suffered as slaves?

- **SALVATION -** Who did Yahweh raise up as the first judge to save Israel?



7. Othniel's name means "lion of God" *Mark Your Bible*

Reference:	Verse:	Margin Note:
Judges 3:9	"...the LORD raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even <u>Othniel</u> the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother;..."	Othniel = 'lion of God'

8. We read in verse 10 that the spirit, or power, of Yahweh came upon Othniel so that he was able to prevail against Chushanrishathaim. How can we prevail against evil in our lives? (*hint: what does the spirit represent in our lives? Eph. 6:17*) _____

9. Under Othniel how long did the land have peace? _____

EHUD

When Israel turned away from God, Eglon, the king of Moab, came and killed many of them and made them his servants. Eglon was a cruel ruler; he demanded money from them as a present, and if they refused to pay the money he would have them killed. When the people sought Yahweh, however, He sent them Ehud to deliver them. In many ways the actions of Ehud against Eglon are incredibly similar to the work that Christ did in destroying sin. In the Bible sin is compared to a king that rules over us and tells us what to do (Rom. 5:21) just like Eglon did to Israel. Israel had to choose between obeying Eglon and paying him tribute, or fighting against him. In the same way we have to choose between giving in to the desires of sin or fighting against it as Christ did. This is the battle that we face every day in our lives.

TYPES:

God helps us to understand His plans by giving us signs and symbols and parables. Often an event recorded for us in the Bible is similar to an event that happens (or will happen) later on. We call these similarities types.

Types help us to understand how God has worked in the past, how He is working now, and how He will work in the future.

10. From Judges 3:12-15 answer the following questions.

- **SIN-** What did the children of Israel do in the sight of Yahweh?

- **SUFFERING-** Who did Yahweh strengthen to make the Israelites suffer?

- **SEEKING GOD-** What did the Israelites do when they suffered?

- **SALVATION-** Who did Yahweh raise up to deliver Israel?

11. What three nations fought together against Israel during this cycle of the judges?

12. In the type explained above, what does Eglon represent? _____

13. What did the children of Israel send with Ehud to Eglon? _____

14. In the type, what were the people doing by sending this? _____



15. Ehud made a dagger or sword to take with him when he went to Eglon. What does the two edged sword represent? *Research*
(hint: Heb. 4:12) _____

16. What does the word 'quarries' mean in verse 19? *Research*

17. What did Ehud do when he came to the quarries that were by Gilgal? _____

18. What did Ehud say that he had for the king when he spoke to the king in his summer parlor? _____

19. Ehud was alone when he killed Eglon. How does that compare to the battle that we fight against sin? _____



20. Why did Ehud leave his sword behind when he escaped?

21. What did Ehud do when he came to the mountain of Ephraim? _____

22. Why did Ehud say that the Israelites should follow him as he went forth in battle against the Moabites? _____

23. Ehud himself conquered Eglon and then he called Israel to fight against the rest of Eglon's army. In the type, Christ has conquered the king of sin and called us to follow him. What should we do to conquer sin in our lives?

24. What weapon do we need for this battle? _____

25. What does the word 'lusty' mean? *Research* _____

26. Who was the third judge of Israel?

27. What did he do with his ox goad? _____

28. He is an excellent example of a person that did not have much in the way of weapons yet was able, through the power of God, to have victory because he used the tools that he had. What tools do you have that you can use in the battle against sin?

The Ox Goad was a farm implement, about eight to ten feet in length, with one end pointed, and sometimes metal-tipped, to prod the ox to plough. The other end was fashioned with a scraper to dislodge the clods that became entangled in the plough.



29. How long did Israel have peace after Moab was subdued? _____

What led to Israel's failure?

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	J	U	D	G	E	S	I	N	T	H	O	S	E	D	A	Y	S	T	H	E	R	E	W	A	S	N	O	K	I	N	G	I	N	I	S	R	A	E	L	B	U	T	E	V	E	R	Y	M	A	N	D	I
2	S	S	H	A	N	R	I	L	A	G	L	I	N	A	D	H	I	L	O	H	M	I	H	C	O	B	T	S	H	E	B	R	O	H	A	G	O	G	N	I	R	L	A	A	B	U	F	F	E	R	I	D
3	R	U	B	D	X	Z	S	G	D	S	A	G	F	S	I	S	T	L	T	R	W	N	K	A	P	U	E	O	A	U	A	N	D	C	I	D	Q	H	Y	E	M	R	W	T	S	X	W	Z	M	N	T	
4	E	H	F	P	T	A	H	V	J	O	Z	B	F	G	N	T	R	E	Y	E	H	B	A	D	M	O	B	I	D	L	A	A	K	D	F	M	K	E	G	F	K	H	T	O	R	L	D	E	L	G	H	
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6	T	E	I	O	C	A	M	N	T	H	C	O	J	E	E	Q	R	Y	X	C	C	A	G	D	Y	L	P	B	D	R	K	Z	I	O	H	P	H	B	U	S	Y	O	J	T	B	N	A	R	E	T		
7	A	G	U	V	E	N	A	Q	N	A	N	M	K	I	K	I	P	S	U	S	D	O	Q	O	W	K	I	A	I	Y	L	E	L	H	O	S	L	A	X	E	S	T	R	I	H	Y	C	E	O	F	W	
8	F	L	J	H	G	D	A	W	B	V	M	J	Y	N	G	R	O	I	O	E	R	P	H	M	T	H	L	N	Z	P	G	Q	B	W	P	A	E	R	Y	R	D	X	U	M	L	S	Z	Q	W	M	F	H
9	R	O	N	E	T	I	N	S	E	G	D	U	Q	U	A	R	W	I	N	E	P	E	L	E	I	N	S	G	A	D	O	N	I	T	E	R	N	O	I	T	A	V	L	A	S	A	G	N	I	R	E	I
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Find the square on the grid above by using the reference points to locate the first letter of each name shown below. For example, the first letter of the name EHUD is in square T4. Start from T4 and go **up**, **down**, **left** or **right** to an **adjacent square** to find the next letter of the name. Carefully and completely shade in each square containing letters for all the words shown below.

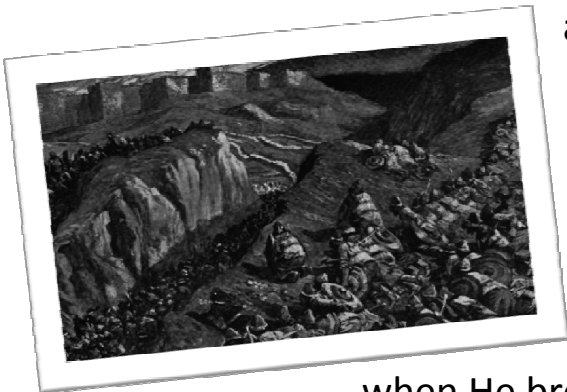
T4	EHUD	ADONIBEZEK	TT3	SUFFERING	VV4	DELIVERANCE
Y7	OTHNIEL	OFFERING	O2	DAN	TT9	ASHTEROTH
D4	PROVE	YAHWEH	R8	ISRAEL	SS2	BAAL
N3	SIN	ANAK	M9	QUARRIES	L8	JUDGES
CC2	HEBRON	BOCHIM	Q9	WINEPRESS	N5	SEEKING
SS9	SALVATION	GOD	KK5	CHOOSE	P3	SHILOH
B6	EGLON	EPHOD	E6	CANAANITE	L7	MOAB
Y4	MOAB	TERAPHIM	L3	GILGAL	PP6	SUFFERING
I4	JONATHAN	PRIEST	OO8	DESTROY	B5	CHUSHANRISHATHAIM
JJ4	MICAH	KINGS	DD7	IDOLATRY		

Read Judges Chapter 4

If God Is For You, Who Can Be Against You?

At first it is difficult for us to understand how the suffering that Israel went through could be good for them. Many Israelites were killed, many lost their homes, and many became slaves to the nations around them. We are told many times that God sold Israel into the hands of their oppressors. It was as if God was completely giving them up; as if He no longer had any concern for them; as if He was telling them, you are not my people and I am not your God. But what He was really telling them was that **if** they continued to live as if He did not exist, by disobeying Him and forgetting Him, **then** He would give them up to their enemies.

The absolute beauty of this, however, is that by selling Israel to her enemies and bringing suffering on Israel, God was, in reality, *bringing them back to Him*. Without that suffering the people would never have turned back to God, and without turning back to God they would never have been saved by His deliverance. We must therefore conclude that God was showing His love for Israel even when He brought their enemies against them. As chapter four opens we see this love at work in Israel again as Israel was sold into the hand of Jabin the king of Canaan.



1. From Judges 4:1-4 answer the following questions.

• **SIN-** When did the children of Israel do evil in the sight of Yahweh?

• **SUFFERING-** Who did Yahweh sell Israel into the hand of?

• **SEEKING GOD-** What did the Israelites do when they were mightily oppressed?

• **SALVATION -** Who was the judge of Israel at that time?

2. Who else had fought against a king named Jabin? *Research* _____

3. Who was the captain of Jabin's host, or army? _____

4. What does it mean in verse 5 when it says about Deborah, that "the children of Israel came up to her for judgment?" *Get Some Help* _____

5. We are told that Deborah was a prophetess. Name at least three other prophetesses found in the Bible. *Research* _____

6. Deborah's name means, "bee" *Mark Your Bible*

Reference:	Verse:	Margin Note:
Judges 4:4	"...And <u>Deborah</u> , a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time."	Deborah = 'bee'

7. Who did Deborah call to go up to take 10,000 men to Mt. Tabor? _____

8. Barak's name means, "lightning" *Mark Your Bible*

Reference:	Verse:	Margin Note:
Judges 4:6	"...And she sent and called <u>Barak</u> the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh-naphtali..."	Barak = 'lightning'

9. From what two tribes do the 10,000 come? _____

10. Who was Yahweh going to draw to the river Kishon? _____

11. Barak said that he would go up against Sisera on one condition. What was that condition? _____

12. Why do you think Barak, who would have had 10,000 men with him, wanted Deborah to go with him? _____

13. What does Hebrews 11:32-33 tell us about Barak? *Research* _____



14. The Kenites were a family that were friends with Israel and lived peaceably with Israel for many years. Which Kenite had severed himself from the Kenites? _____
15. What did Sisera do when he heard that the Israelites had gone up to Mount Tabor?

Picture in your mind 10,000 men with Barak and Deborah on top of Mount Tabor.

Now picture Sisera with his 900 chariots waiting for Barak and his men to come down. The chariots could not go up into the mountain because the roads were too steep for the heavy chariots of iron, so Barak and his men were safe up on the mountain. But they were trapped there.



Meanwhile, another part of the army from Israel came from Mount Ephraim in the south towards the Kishon River valley. These Israelites fought against the Canaanite towns of Taanach and Megiddo. When Sisera heard that these Canaanite towns were being attacked by the Israelites he raced to their rescue.

When he did that, Barak led his men down from Mount Tabor and chased after Sisera and his chariots.

While all of this was going on Yahweh brought up a huge storm to flood the



Kishon River Valley. As the river rose and the rain poured from the sky, the roads that were normally hard packed dirt, became soft mud which bogged the wheels of the chariots until they could no longer move. When their chariots became stuck in the mud, and they were being attacked from all sides, the Canaanites were forced to get out of their chariots and run on foot. They had Barak's army

behind them and the second Israelite army in front of them.

They no longer had their iron chariots, so they fled in every direction.

16. Verse 14 says that Yahweh went out before Barak. In what way did He do that?

17. Verse 15 says that Yahweh discomfited Sisera. What does the word discomfited mean?

Research

18. Why did Sisera choose the tent of Jael to flee to? _____

19. What did Jael say to Sisera when she went out to meet him? _____

20. What did Sisera ask for? _____

21. What did Jael give him? _____

22. How did Jael kill Sisera? _____



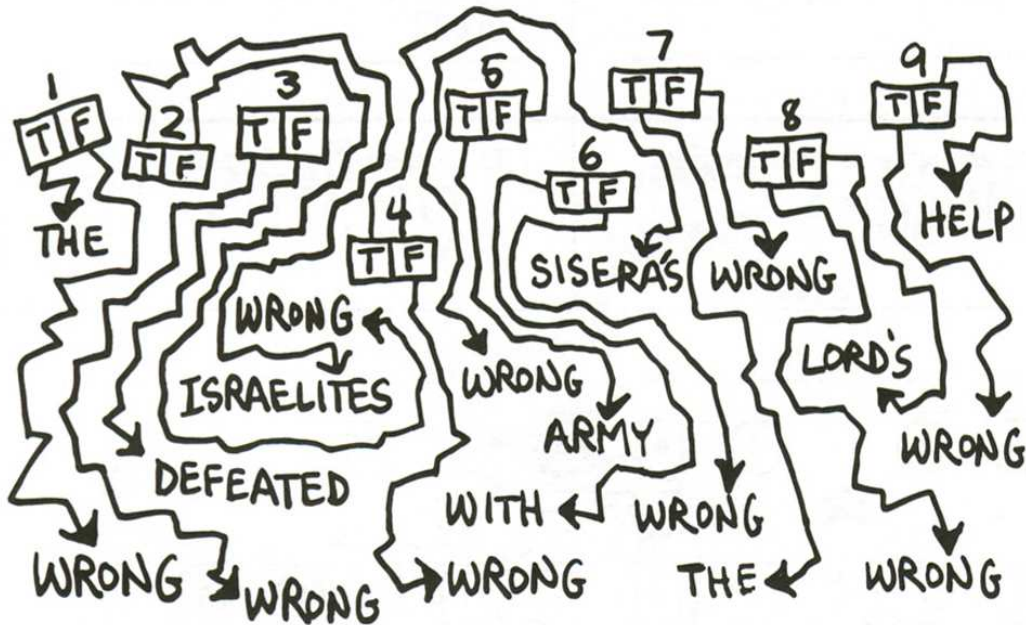
23. Look back at verse 10 and explain how Deborah's prophecy came to pass.

Lead the Way!

Read these statements from Judges 4. If the statement is true, follow the **T** path. If it is false, follow the **F** path.

Write the word at the end of each path in the blank spaces below.

1. The Israelites once again did evil (4:1).
2. The LORD sold them into the hands of Jabin (4:2).
3. Jabin cruelly oppressed them for 100 years (4:3).
4. Deborah was judging Israel at the time (4:4).
5. Sisera was the commander of Jabin's army (4:7).
6. Israelites came to Deborah decide their disputes (4:5).
7. Barak led 10,000 men against Sisera (4:6)
8. Barak said he would never go (4:8).
9. All the troops of Sisera fell by the sword except three (4:16).



Read Judges Chapter 5

The Song of Deborah and Barak

In ancient times it was common for people to make up songs and rhymes to help them to remember important things for generations. Today we would



write a book, or a newspaper article, or a letter to record things that happen, but in those days paper and pens weren't as easy to come by, and many people couldn't read, or didn't have access to books like we do now. Have you ever memorized something using a song? If you have then you know that when you put a tune to things it is much easier to remember them!

This chapter is a song of praise that was sung by Deborah and Barak.

1. Find another instance in the Bible where a song was used to remind people of what God had done for them? *Research*

Deborah and Barak wanted the people to remember what their God had done for them so that, hopefully, they would see that it was Yahweh that delivered them from Sisera. As we study the song we will also find that in the song there are some details of the battle that aren't mentioned in chapter four!

2. According to verse 2 when did Yahweh avenge Israel? _____
3. Why do you suppose that the highways were unoccupied and people had to travel on the back roads in the days of Jael? *Get Some Help* _____

4. How did the governors of Israel offer themselves? _____

When Jabin the king of Canaan ruled over the Israelites they were under his control and they had to do what he said: They were his captives, his servants, and they could not escape- until Deborah and Barak defeated him. *In the same way we are the servants of sin.* The thinking of our own minds has great control over the things that we do, and the sins that we commit lead only to death. All of mankind was stuck in the power of sin until Christ came and defeated the power of sin which had held mankind captive. In this way Christ led captivity captive.

5. In verse 12 we read, "Arise Barak and lead captivity captive." Who had held the Israelites as captives? _____
6. How did Barak lead this captivity captive? _____
7. In your own words explain how Christ led captivity captive. *Get Some Help* _____

8. When Deborah and Barak called, some of the Israelites came to help them in their battle against the Canaanites, but others did not help. Fill in the blanks below:

Those that came to help:

- ✓ Out of _____ was there a root of them against Amalek.
- ✓ After thee _____, among thy people,
- ✓ Out of _____ came down governors
- ✓ Out of _____ they that handle the pen of the writer.
- ✓ The princes of _____ were with Deborah;

Those that did not come to help:

- ✓ For the divisions of _____ there were great thoughts of heart.
- ✓ _____ abode beyond Jordan
- ✓ And why did _____ remain in ships?
- ✓ _____ continued on the sea shore,

Mark Your Bible

Underline those that came to help in **green**, and those that did not come in **red**.

9. Where did they fight the kings of Canaan? _____

10. What do you think verse 20 is talking about? *Get Some Help* _____

11. What did the river Kishon do? _____
12. Read verses 26-27, and explain in your own words what happened when Jael killed Sisera. _____

13. Why was Sisera's mother worried about her son? _____

14. How long did Israel have rest after Sisera and Jabin were defeated? _____

Read Judges Chapter 6

Yahweh Was With Gideon

As the years passed, the Israelites once again began doing evil in the sight of Yahweh. This time He brought the Midianites against them. Many years earlier, Moses had conquered these people and their kings, but they had grown strong again and now they attacked Israel. The Midianites were ruled by two kings named Zebah and Zalmunna, and two princes named Oreb and Zeeb.

There seems to have been a battle at Mount Tabor, where Israel was defeated and Zebah and Zalmunna had killed the brothers of Gideon. The invading Midianites continued to dominate the land, going through the land and burnt down the cities, murdered the people, destroyed their crops until the Israelites were forced to live in caves and to hiding themselves and their food from the Midianites. In these terrible conditions Yahweh sent Gideon, a man of spiritual might, to deliver His people.



"The children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds."—Judges vi. 2.

1. From Judges 6:1-8 answer the following questions.

• **SIN-** What did the children of Israel do in the sight of Yahweh?

• **SUFFERING-** Who did Yahweh deliver Israel into the hand of?

• **SEEKING GOD-** What did the Israelites do when they were greatly impoverished?

• **SALVATION -** What did Yahweh send to the people?

2. How long were the children of Israel in the hand of the Midianites? _____

3. What did the Midianites and the Amalekites do with the crops that the Israelites had planted? _____

4. Why do you think the invaders were compared to grasshoppers? _____

5. When Yahweh sent a prophet to speak to the people for Him what did he command the people not to do? _____

6. An angel of Yahweh came to a man who was threshing wheat by a winepress. Who was this man? _____



7. What was his father's name? _____

8. Usually people threshed wheat on a threshing floor, and pressed wine on a winepress. So why was he threshing wheat by a winepress? _____

9. Gideon's name means, "hewer" (*to hew means to cut down*) *Mark Your Bible*

Reference:	Verse:	Margin Note:
Judges 6:11	"...and his son <u>Gideon</u> threshed wheat by the winepress..."	Gideon= "hewer"

10. What was the very first thing that the angel said to Gideon? _____

11. Why do you think Yahweh would have been with Gideon? _____

12. Why did Gideon question whether Yahweh was with Israel? _____

13. Who did the angel say would deliver Israel from the Midianites? _____
14. Gideon said that his family was poor in Manasseh and that he was the least of his father's house yet the angel had called him a mighty man of valor. In what way do you think Gideon was mighty? _____

15. What did the angel say to try to reassure Gideon? _____

16. What thoughts would go through your mind if an angel, who looked very much like a man, told you that God would be with you and you would smite an army as one man? _____

17. Yahweh gave Gideon many signs to help him to have faith. What did Gideon ask Yahweh to prove to him with the **first** sign? _____
18. What signs does God give us now, to help us have faith? *Get Some Help* _____

19.

Mark Your Bible

Reference: Judges 6:18	Verse: “... and bring forth my <u>present</u> , and set it before thee.”	Margin note: <u>present</u> - an offering made to God
Reference: Judges 6:19	Verse: “And Gideon went in, and made ready a <u>kid</u> , and <u>unleavened cakes</u> of an ephah of flour: ...”	Margin note: <u>kid</u> - similar to a burnt offering which was totally consumed, it represents complete dedication to God <u>unleavened cakes</u> -similar to a meal offering which represents our labor in God's service

20. Where did the angel tell Gideon to put the offering? _____

21. What happened to Gideon's offering? _____

22. On several occasions in the scriptures, fire from Yahweh signaled His approval of an offering. Find an occasion that Gideon would be aware of when fire from Yahweh consumed a sacrifice. *Research* _____



23. What did Gideon realize when he saw the offering consumed by fire? _____

24. Why did Gideon think he'd die? *Research* (hint: Exodus 33:20) _____

25. *Mark Your Bible* Gideon built an altar to Yahweh, and called it "Jehovah-shalom." This word means, "Yahweh sends peace"

Reference:	Verse:	Margin Note:
Judges 6:24	"Then Gideon built an altar unto the LORD, and called it <u>Jehovah-shalom</u> :..."	Jehovah-shalom= 'Yahweh sends peace'

26. Yahweh told Gideon to throw down his father's altar of Baal. What does this tell us about the how bad idolatry was in Israel? _____

27. What was Gideon told to build in its place? _____

28. What wood was Gideon told to use for the sacrifice? _____

29. Why did Gideon do these things at night? _____

30. When the Israelites woke up the next morning they saw that their worshipping place was gone, and an altar to Yahweh was in its place. When they found out that Gideon had done it, what did they want to do to him? _____

31. Joash gave them a *great* reason why he shouldn't give Gideon up to them. What was the reason that he gave? _____

32. What did Joash say should happen to anyone that pleads for Baal? _____
33. Names are very important in the Bible. When names are given, they are given so that we can understand even more about what's going on. Here we see a great example of this: Gideon's father gave him a new name. What was it? _____
34. What does Gideon's new name mean? *Research* _____
35. Now that Gideon had faithfully set an example of what needed to happen in Israel, Yahweh put the next part of his plan into action. The Midianites, Amalekites and the children of the east gathered together for war against Israel. Where did they set up camp? _____
36. God had shown Gideon that He was with him, and now He gave him his spirit (power) to protect him and to help him to lead the people. The first thing that Gideon did was to blow a trumpet. Why would he do that? *Research* (*hint: Numbers 10:9*) _____

37. Gideon then sent out messengers to four tribes to ask them to come fight against the Midianites Amalekites and the children of the east. Which four tribes did he call?

38. Once Gideon had all of the fighting men gathered and ready to fight, he asked God to show them a sign that would prove that God would save Israel. Explain what he asked God to do. _____

39. How much water was he able to wring out of the fleece? _____

40. Gideon then asked for one more sign. Explain what he wanted to happen this time. _____

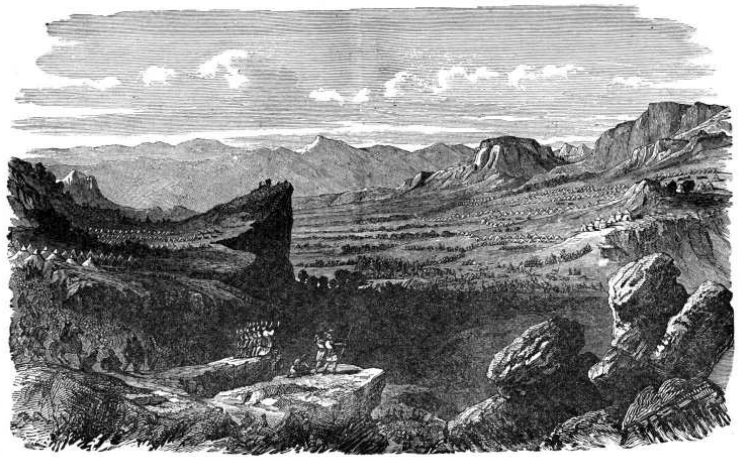
41. Did it happen as Gideon had asked? _____



Read Judges Chapter 7

Sharper than a two edged sword

One of the great themes of the story of Gideon is **fear**. Fear is something that we all can relate to because we have all been afraid at one time or another. Gideon and his men were facing a huge army, an army that was *much* larger than their own. There were more than 4 Midianites for every Israelite. We can't even imagine fear like that. But Yahweh was the God of Israel and there was no other god that was a match for Him. That was the lesson that Yahweh was teaching Gideon; the lesson that He was teaching Israel; and that He was about to teach the whole world through the faith of Gideon and his men.



1. What was the name of the well that the Israelites pitched beside? _____

2. *Mark Your Bible*

Reference:	Verse:	Margin Note:
Judges 7:1	"...Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of <u>Harod</u> ..."	Harod='fountain of trembling'

3. Why did God say that the size of Gideon's army was too large? _____

4. By doing some quick math on verse 3 calculate out how many men were originally in Gideon's army. _____

5. Now let's look ahead to chapter 8 to find out the size of the opposing army. Judges 8:10 tells us how many Midianites (children of the east) were killed and how many were left alive. About _____ men were left, and about _____ men were killed. This makes a total of _____ men in that army!

6. What happened to those that were in Gideon's army that were fearful and afraid?

7. Yahweh had set up rules about allowing fearful men to be excused from fighting in His army many years before Israel had even *ever* fought in a battle. Why didn't Yahweh want those that were fearful going to battle? *Research* (See Deut 20:1,8) _____
8. After those that were afraid went home, how many men were left? _____
9. How do you think Gideon felt when more than 2/3 of his army left him? _____
10. Yet Yahweh was still unhappy with Gideon's army so He asked them to go down to the water to drink. The men drank the water in two different ways. How many men lapped putting their hands to their mouth? _____
11. How many men bowed down on their knees to drink? _____
12. Which group of men did God choose to be in his army? _____
13. Now how many men were in Gideon's army? _____
14. How do you think Gideon felt then? _____
15. Next God did a wonderful thing for Gideon: He knew that Gideon was still a bit afraid, and He told him what he should do so that he'd have the strength to fight, and not be afraid. Fill in the blanks from verses 10&11, "But if thou _____ to go down, go thou with _____ thy servant down to the host: and thou shalt _____ what _____ and _____ shall thine _____ be _____."
16. Yahweh told Gideon to go down to the Midianite camp and just listen: Then he'd be strong enough to fight. How was listening to a camp supposed to help? But God was giving Gideon another sign. How many signs had Yahweh already given Gideon? _____



17. Gideon and Phurah snuck down to the Midianite camp, and as they got closer and closer, what does verse 12 say that they saw? _____

Would this have encouraged them and made them less afraid? _____

18. They kept going though, and when they got there, (they would have had to be very close by this time!) they heard two men from the Midian army talking to each other, and one of them told his friend that he had had a dream. In your own words describe his dream.

19. We see God *already* working to fight against the Midianites even in their dreams. What did his friend tell him that his dream meant? _____

20. After Gideon heard this, he went back to the Israelite army. What did he tell them?

21. What were the 300 men supposed to do with the following:

- The pitchers? _____
- _____
- The lamps or torches? _____
- _____
- The trumpets? _____
- _____

22. What were they supposed to yell?

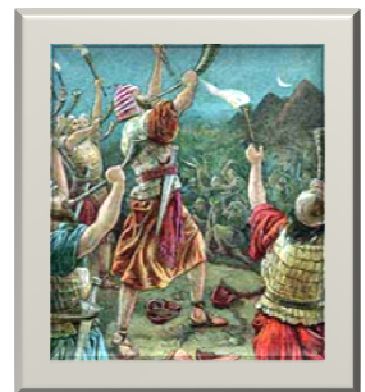
*"in the beginning of the **middle watch**"*

Guards were assigned periods of time to stand guard, or 'watch.' This began at sunset, (or 6:00PM) and lasted until sunrise (or 6:00AM) Each watch was four hours long.

The First Watch would be from 6:00PM – 10:00PM

Second Watch (or middle watch) 10:00PM – 2:00AM

Third Watch (or morning watch) 2:00AM – 6:00AM



Armies were made up of more than just soldiers. Usually armies would have a few men with trumpets to announce things, a few with lamps to light the way, and the rest of the men in their army (the most important and largest division) would have swords and bows and spears. When they attacked, those with weapons would charge ahead against their enemy. So, when Gideon's men sounded the trumpets and showed their torches it would appear to the Midianites that there were thousands and thousands of Israelites attacking them. They were already afraid. In the dark, the Midianites thought that their allies were really part of the invading Israelite army and since Yahweh had already put great fear into their hearts, the Midianites began killing each other.



23. Where did the Israelite army stand? _____

24. When the Midianite army saw and heard the Israelite army – what did they do?

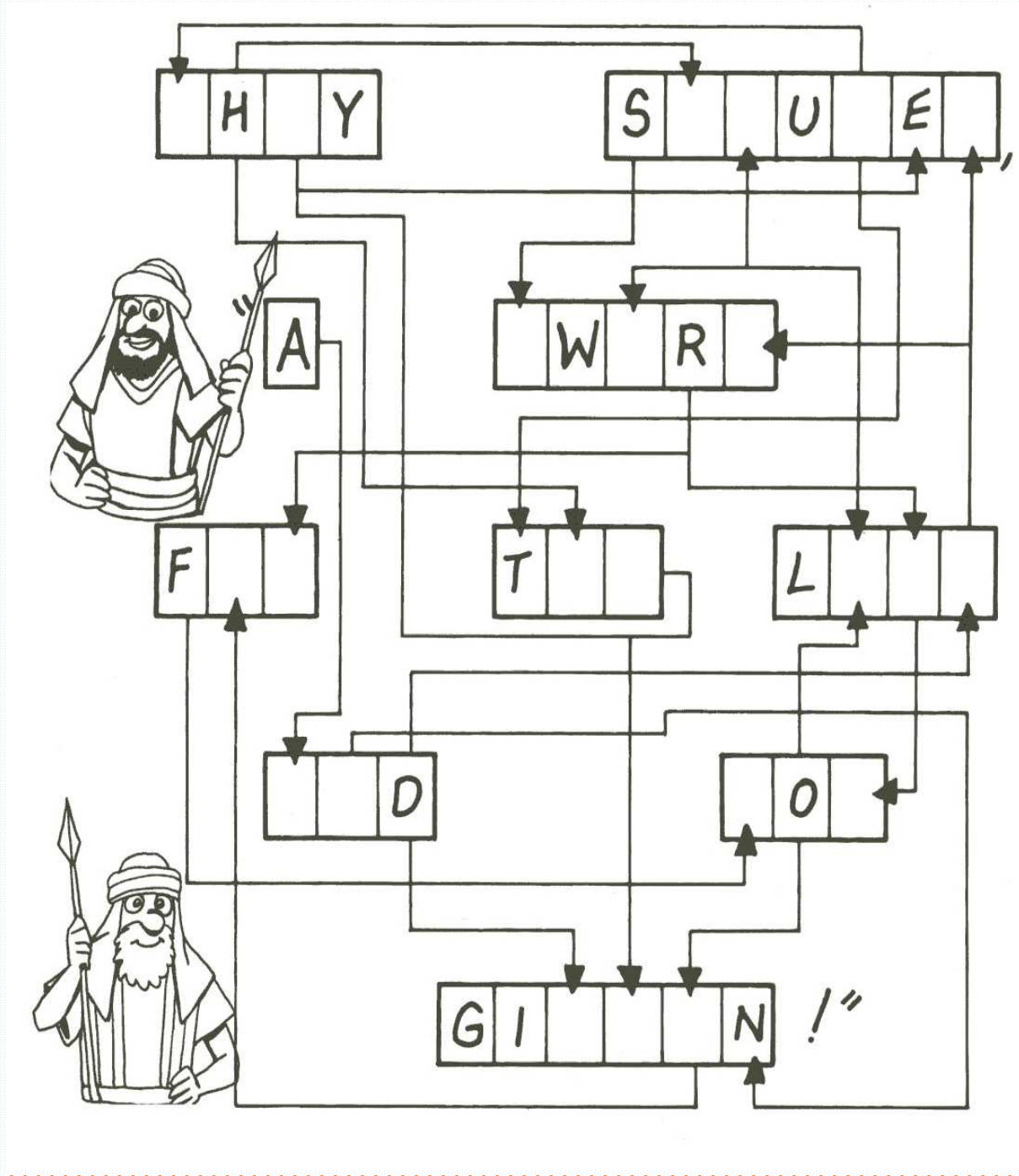
25. As the Israelite army was standing around, “Yahweh set every man’s sword against his fellow” What do you think that this means? _____

26. The men from four tribes came to help in the destruction of the huge Midianite army. What four tribes did they come from?

27. What two princes of Midian did the men of Ephraim capture and kill? _____

Israel's army was very small, but they followed God's directions.
 Fill in their battle cry by filling in the boxes.
 Each box connects with other boxes that contain the same letter.

Israel's Battle Cry



Read Judges Chapter 8

Yahweh shall rule over you

1. Why were the men of Ephraim angry with Gideon? _____

2. What does it mean to chide? *Research* _____

3. Gideon told the men of Ephraim that the gleanings of the grapes of Ephraim were better than the vintage of Abiezer (Gideon's home). To understand what he was talking about find out what the following words mean: *Research*

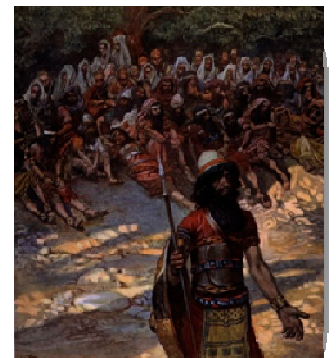
Gleanings: _____

Vintage: _____

4. When something good happens it makes us feel good if we are the ones that get the credit for making it happen. When the Ephraimites saw that Gideon and his 300 men were getting the credit for defeating the Midianites they were envious and they became angry. What did Gideon say in verse 3 that shows that he was not concerned about getting the credit? _____

5. Gideon and his small army still had to chase the rest of the Midianite army, but they were very tired. What were the names of the two kings that they were chasing?

6. Gideon and his men crossed the Jordan River and asked the men of Succoth for bread because they were faint. Why did the men of Succoth refuse to give them bread? _____



7. What did Gideon tell the men of Succoth that he would do after he captured the two kings of Midian? _____

8. What other city did Gideon ask bread from? _____

9. How did they respond? _____

10. What had happened at that location in the days of Jacob? *Research* _____
-
11. It helps to picture in our minds what is happening here. Gideon and his 300 men were chasing the remainder of the Midianite army. They were dead tired and hungry and desperately needed help from their fellow Israelites, but their fellows would not help them. They even refused to give them bread to eat. The attitude of the men of Succoth and the men of Penuel is a very sad one, but it teaches us a very important lesson. We need to make sure that we always help those people that are doing the work of Yahweh even if it is only by giving them something as small as a loaf of bread. What does Christ do for them that help their brethren? *Research* (hint: Matt 25:34-40) _____
-
12. In verse 12 it says that Gideon discomfited all the host. This means that he terrified the host. Explain how things have changed for Gideon when compared to Judges 6:15.
-
13. *Why* did things change for him? (Judges 6:16) _____
14. When did Gideon come back from the battle, victorious? _____
15. What did Gideon do with the “thorns of the wilderness and briers”? _____
-
16. What did Gideon do to the men of Penuel? _____
17. Why do you think Gideon beat down the tower of Penuel? _____
-
18. What did Gideon ask Zebah and Zalmunna? _____
-
19. Who had they killed? _____
20. What did Gideon ask his firstborn son to do? _____
-
21. Why didn't he do it? _____



22. When Zebah and Zalmunna said, 'as the man is, so is his strength' they were saying that a man could be measured by how strong he was. Gideon had learned, however, that a man's strength was from God and that with God's strength they could defeat the Midianites. Find a verse from the story of Gideon that shows that Gideon knew this.

23. What did the Israelites want to do with Gideon and his family? _____

24. What was Gideon's reply? _____

25. What did Gideon ask the Israelites to give him? _____



26. How many shekels of gold did the people bring to Gideon? _____

27. About how much money in today's dollars would that much gold be worth? *Get Some Help*

28. There was another time in Israel's history when they brought together their earrings to make something with their gold. What did they make with the gold? *Research*

29. What became a snare to Gideon and his house? _____

30. What does the word snare mean? *Research* _____

31. How long was there quietness in the land while Gideon ruled? _____

32. How many sons did Gideon have? _____

33. Only one of Gideon's sons is named for us here. What was his name? _____

34. We are told that his mother was a concubine. What is a concubine? *Research*

35. What did the Israelites do after Gideon died?

Read Judges Chapter 9

Abimelech, the Bramble King

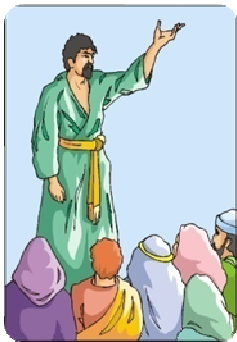
We have seen how, “the LORD raised up judges, which delivered Israel out of the hand of those that spoiled them.” These judges helped to bring Israel back to God. A good example of one of these judges was Gideon. He was a man who realized that Yahweh was the king over Israel. He had come to know God’s power and he had been a great help to Israel. In this chapter, however, we run into Gideon’s son, Abimelech. Gideon had several wives and 70 sons. Abimelech was the son of one of Gideon’s lesser wives known as a concubine. He was a man that was not interested in helping his people. He wanted to rule over them, to be their king and to have power over them. He did not care to help his brothers and sisters to the kingdom of God. Abimelech was not a judge appointed by God but a man that came to power by murdering his brothers.

1. *Mark Your Bible* Abimelech’s name means, “My father is king.”

Reference:	Verse:	Margin Note:
Judges 9:1	“And <u>Abimelech</u> the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem...”	Abimelech= ‘my father is king’

2. Why do you think his mother named him Abimelech? _____

3. Who was Abimelech’s mother? (9:18) _____



4. What two reasons did Abimelech give why he should rule over Shechem? _____

5. What decision had Gideon made about ruling over the people? _____

6. Which reason convinced the men of Shechem to follow Abimelech? _____

7. Where did they get the 70 pieces of silver from? _____

8. What does that tell us about idolatry at that time? _____

9. What did they do with the 70 pieces of silver? _____



10. What did Abimelech and his men do to the sons of Gideon?

11. Who was Jotham? _____

12. *Mark Your Bible* Jotham's name means, "Yahweh is perfect."

Reference:	Verse:	Margin Note:
Judges 9:5	"...notwithstanding yet <u>Jotham</u> the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left;..."	Jotham = 'Yahweh is perfect'

13. Why wasn't Jotham killed by Abimelech? _____

14. Jotham went to the top of Mount Gerizim so that everyone would be able to hear him. Where is the first time Mount Gerizim is found in the Bible, and what is it that Yahweh says about it there? *Research* _____

15. On the following page, create a cartoon strip out of the parable told by Jotham. Show how the olive tree, fig tree, vine and bramble all respond when they are asked to reign over the trees. Give your cartoon strip a title. You don't have to use every box, however, if you need *more* room, feel free to use extra pages.

Title

16. What is a bramble? *Research* _____
17. Gideon was like the olive tree, fig tree and the vine because he provided a valuable service to the nation of Israel but he refused to be made their king. The bramble however accepts the role of ruling over the people. Who do you think the bramble represents?

18. After the Jotham told his parable he gave a curse about Abimelech and the men of Shechem. In the curse what three things did Jotham say that Gideon had done for the people? _____
19. What did Jotham say would happen to the men of Shechem if they had not acted truly and sincerely with the house of Jerubbaal? _____
20. What did Jotham say would happen to Abimelech if he had not acted truly and sincerely with the house of Jerubbaal?

21. Why did Jotham run away after he had spoken the parable and the curse? _____

22. In verse 23 it says that the evil spirit that God sent caused the men of Shechem to act treacherously towards Abimelech. What does the word treacherous mean? *Research*

23. Who did the people of Shechem put their confidence in after they stopped following Abimelech? _____

“God sent an evil spirit”
The things that happen to us throughout our lives cause us to think and act in certain ways. Since God ultimately is in control of everything that happens, it can be said that God makes things happen in our lives that make us feel and think different things. God doesn't control our minds: that's up to us, but He DOES control the circumstances around us. In this way, He “sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem”. He caused things to happen, and they chose to act certain ways because of that.

24. Abimelech had been able to get the men of Shechem to follow him by reminding them that he was their brother, but now the men of Shechem were dissatisfied with Abimelech. So Gaal told the men of Shechem that Abimelech was not a real Shechemite anyway. He was a son of Jerubbaal, and that he had no right to rule over Shechem. Gaal then suggested that they find a real Canaanite ruler from the line of Hamor the true founder of the city of Shechem. Where do we read about Shechem and Hamor? *Research*

25. What did Gaal say he would do if the people of Shechem were under his hand?

26. Zebul worked for Abimelech as the ruler of the city of Shechem. What did he do when he heard what Gaal was saying? _____

27. What did Zebul say to Gaal when Gaal saw people coming down from the tops of the mountains? _____

28. What happened when Gaal and the men of Shechem went out to fight against Abimelech? _____

29. What did Abimelech do to the city of Shechem?



30. Where did the men of Shechem go to hide from Abimelech?

31. Abimelech told the people, ‘what you have seen me do, quickly go and do the same.’ What was it that he had done? _____



32. How did the men and women of Shechem that had escaped to the tower of Shechem die? _____

33. Next Abimelech went to fight against Thebez. Where did the people of Thebez go to hide from Abimelech? _____

34. What was Abimelech's plan to defeat these men of Thebez? (hint: "hard unto" means "up close to") _____

35. Why wasn't Abimelech's plan successful? _____



36. How was Abimelech's death similar to the way he had murdered the sons of Gideon? _____

37. What did the people of Israel do when they found out that Abimelech was dead? _____

38. Verses 56-57 say that God brought the 'curse of Jotham' on Abimelech and the men of Shechem. What was the 'curse of Jotham'? and how was it fulfilled? _____

Read Judges Chapter 13-16

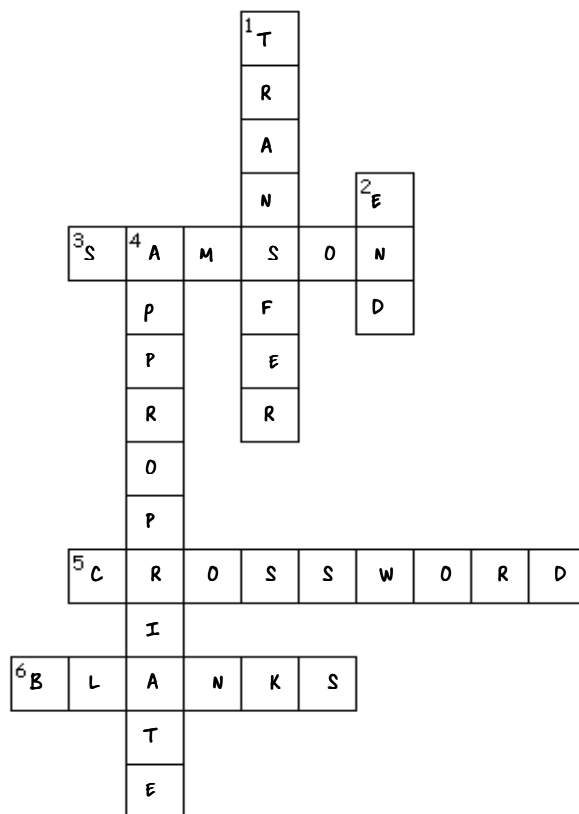
Samson

The Story of Samson is one of the most exciting stories in the book of Judges. Samson made many mistakes in his life, but we know that he was a man of faith because he is mentioned in Hebrews 11, the "faith chapter."

With your Bible open to Judges 13-16, read through this story and fill in the blanks.

In this story about Samson (3A) there are many blanks (6A).

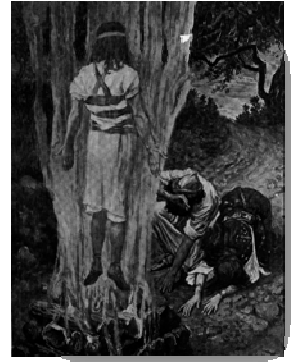
Fill in the blanks and then transfer (1D) the answers to the appropriate (4D) place in the crossword (5A) puzzle at the end (2D) of the story.



Chapter 13~ The Children of Israel, once again, did _____ (29A) in the sight of Yahweh, so Yahweh allowed the Philistines to oppress them for _____ (37A) years. But there was a man who was righteous in the land. He was from Zorah, of the family of Dan. His name was _____. (26A) An angel of Yahweh came to his wife, who had not been able to have any children, and told her that she was going to have a son. She was not to drink any wine, or eat anything unclean, and the son wasn't ever to cut his hair, "for", he said, "the child shall be a _____ (34A) unto God from the womb." So both she and her son were to share in this vow: she, during her pregnancy, and then her son from his birth on! The angel told her that her son would *begin* to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines. He would not *finish* the job. Turn to 1 Sam. 7:12-13 to find out who would finish the job of driving out the Philistines. It says that the hand of Yahweh was *against* the Philistines all the days of _____ (10D).

So the woman came and told her husband everything that the angel of Yahweh had told her. The very first thing that he did was to pray to God. God listened, and again sent His angel to the woman. She ran to get her husband, and they came together and asked the

angel, “How shall we _____ (32A) the child, and how shall we do unto him?” Or, in other words, he said, “How should we raise this child that you have specially given us?” The angel’s answer was perfect. The angel said, “Of all that I said unto the woman, let her _____ (1D)” or, in other words, “Do what Yahweh has told you!” This is the same advice we should always follow.



Manoah asked the angel what his name was, and was told that it was “Wonderful”. Manoah offered a goat kid as a _____ (45A) offering to Yahweh, and when Yahweh sent the fire to consume the offering to show that He had accepted it, the angel of Yahweh _____ (22D) in the flame of the altar.

The angel did not come to them again, but sure enough, they did have a child, and they named him _____. (13D) He grew up, and Yahweh _____ (30D) him.

Chapter 14~ Samson went down to Timnath, and there he saw a woman of the



daughters of the _____ (46A) and told his mother and father that he had to have her for a wife. His parents protested. They said to him, “Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy _____ (52D) or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the _____ (50A) Philistines?” But what they were all unaware of was that this was all part of Yahweh’s plan to get rid of the Philistines who at this time still had dominion over His people. This illustrates a great lesson for us: God will not stop us from sinning, but at the same time He will not allow our sins to

defeat His purpose.

When Samson and his parents went down to Timnath, he killed a _____ (43A) with his bare hands, but didn’t tell his parents about it. When he returned back that way a while later, he came back to that place, and found a swarm of bees and _____ (27D) in the dead carcass. This is very interesting, because bees *usually* find neat, clean places to make their hives. This was obviously a miracle, and Samson would have known that.

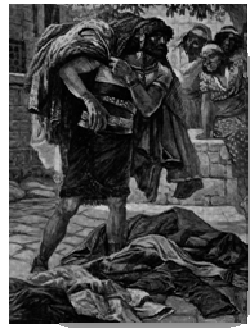


When he was celebrating his engagement to this woman, he told



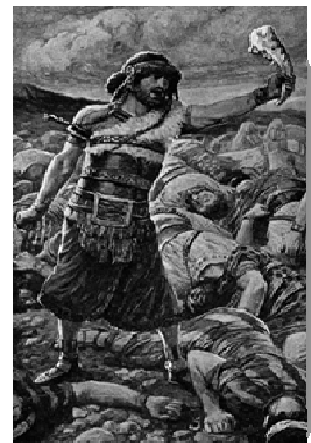
everyone a riddle, and told them that if they figure it out, he would give them _____ (6A) changes of clothing. His riddle was this: “Out of the _____ (44A) came forth meat and out of the _____ (8A) came forth _____ (19A)” Of course, we know the story: the men of the city told Samson’s fiancé that unless she found out the answer and told them, they would burn her and her father’s house with fire.

The woman that Samson thought he loved enticed him to tell her the answer to the riddle, she told it to the men of the city, who gave the answer to Samson. So what did Samson do? He went to _____ (16D) (a Philistine city) and killed thirty men, took their garments, and gave them to the Philistines that had tricked him. Samson's wife (who wasn't really his wife yet: more like what we would call his fiancé) was given to a man who Samson had used as his friend.

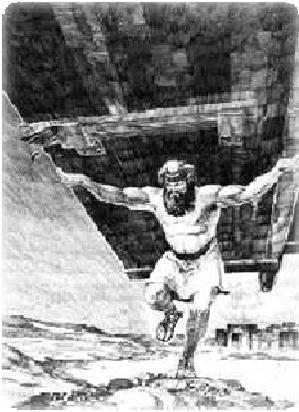


Chapter 15~ A while later, Samson decided to go down and see his fiancé again and he found out that she was now married to another man. He wasn't happy about this. He wanted revenge. He caught _____ (20D) hundred foxes, and tied their tails together, two by two, with burning torches between them, and set them loose in the Philistine's standing _____ (25A), shocks, (which were stacks of sheaves)

and their vineyards, and _____.(9D) This was basically everything the Philistines would have had to eat for the next season, so, needless to say, they were not happy. When they found out that Samson was the one who had done it, and he'd done it because his fiancé had been given to another man, they went to the woman and her father, and _____ (7A) them. After Samson smote the Philistines "hip and thigh with a great _____ (42D)" he went and dwelled on a rock called _____ (24D) which was on the border between the Philistines and the Israelite tribe of Judah. This would not have pleased the people of Judah because it brought the wrath of the Philistines close to them; right to their land. They were afraid for their lives. They thought that the Philistines would come against *them* to get to Samson. They made a deal with Samson: they wouldn't harm Samson if he allowed them to turn him over to the Philistines. They bound Samson with two new _____ (11D) and brought him down to the Philistines. This showed a great lack of faith on the part of the Israelites, but shows us the faith Samson had: he was willing to give himself up to keep Israel safe. He descended the mountain to a city called _____ (48D) (which means "jawbone") he heard the Philistines shouting in triumph against him, and the Spirit of Yahweh came _____ (31D) upon him, and he found the _____ (51A) of an ass and killed a _____ (35A) men with it. Samson then boasted of his great slaughter. His strength had come from the Spirit of Yahweh, but he momentarily forgot that. Immediately he felt thirsty, because God's power was no longer mightily with him, and thus he was reminded where his strength came from. He called upon



Yahweh, “Thou hast given this great _____ (21D) into the hand of thy _____ (2D): and now shall I die for _____ (12A), and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?” God provided water for him in “the jaw”, which, as we saw earlier, is the name of the city.

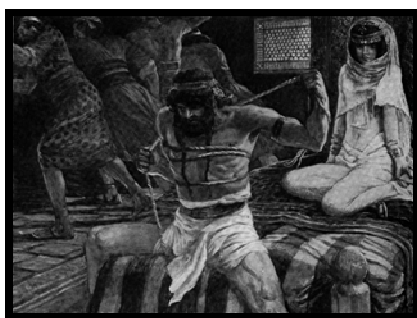


Chapter 16~ Samson’s greatest problem seemed to be with women. At the beginning of this chapter we see that it is another woman that got him into trouble. He went down to Gaza and there he met her, and while he was there the people of the city laid in wait for him at the gate of the city, planning on killing him when he went out of the gate in the morning. But at _____ (4D) he got up, took the doors of the city, and the two posts that held the gates up, and put them on his _____ (38D) and carried them up to the top of the hill. The Philistines would have been incredibly frustrated by this, and they met in council to discuss how they could bring about his fall.

Once again, now for the third time, he fell in love with a Philistine woman. Her name was _____. (21A) The Philistine rulers came to her and bribed her to find out the secret of Samson’s strength, figuring that if they could find that out, they would finally be able to control him, and thus control the nation of Israel. They told her that if she found out that secret, they’d each give her _____ (23A) hundred pieces of _____. (36D)



Four times she asked Samson to tell her the secret of his strength. Four times she betrayed him to the Philistines. The first time he told her that if they bound him with _____ (33A) green withs (or new cords) that he would be weak. He was bound, and betrayed. The second time he told her that if he was bound



with new _____ (3A) that had never been occupied (or used before) then he’d be weak. He was bound again, and again betrayed. The third time he told her that if she was to weave the seven _____ (14A) of his head with the web, then he’d be weak. For the third time he was bound, and betrayed. The fourth time we are told that Samson “told her all his _____ (28D)” This was his undoing. He told her that it was because he was a Nazarite

that he was strong. The proof of his Nazarite Vow to God was that he had never shaved the hair on his head, and if he were to shave his head, and thus break his vow, he would be as weak as any other man. For the last time he was betrayed.

The Philistines took Samson and put out his _____(5D) and bound him with fetters of _____(39A) and made him to grind in the prison house with all of the other prisoners.

The great and mighty Samson had become just an object of mockery to the Philistines. But during this time Samson would have had a lot of time to think about what he had done, to remember what Yahweh had done for him, and to pray to his God to help him to avenge the Philistines. Although we read of



many errors he made, we must never forget that Samson was a great man of faith. We read of him in Hebrews 11: 32, which names him as a *faithful servant* of our God. God answered his prayers. The Philistines had a great day of celebration for their god, named _____.(49D) They brought Samson out so they could ridicule him, and make fun of him. They said, “Call for Samson, that he may make us _____.(15D)” As Samson was being led out, he asked the lad that was leading him out to take him so he could lean on the large pillars that held the building up. The building was full of Philistine men and women, and all of the _____(41D) of the Philistines were there. And on the roof there were about three thousand men and women.

Samson called upon Yahweh one last time. He said, “Adonai Yahweh” which means, “He Who Will Be Rulers” “Remember me, I pray thee and _____(2A) me, I pray thee, only this once, O Elohim (Mighty Ones) that I may be at once _____(18D) of the Philistines for my two eyes.”

Yahweh’s strength did return to Samson one last time, and he pushed the pillars down, and all of the Philistines therein died.



His brethren, and all of the _____(40A) of his father came down, and brought him to the burying place of his father between _____(17A) and _____(47A) and buried him there.

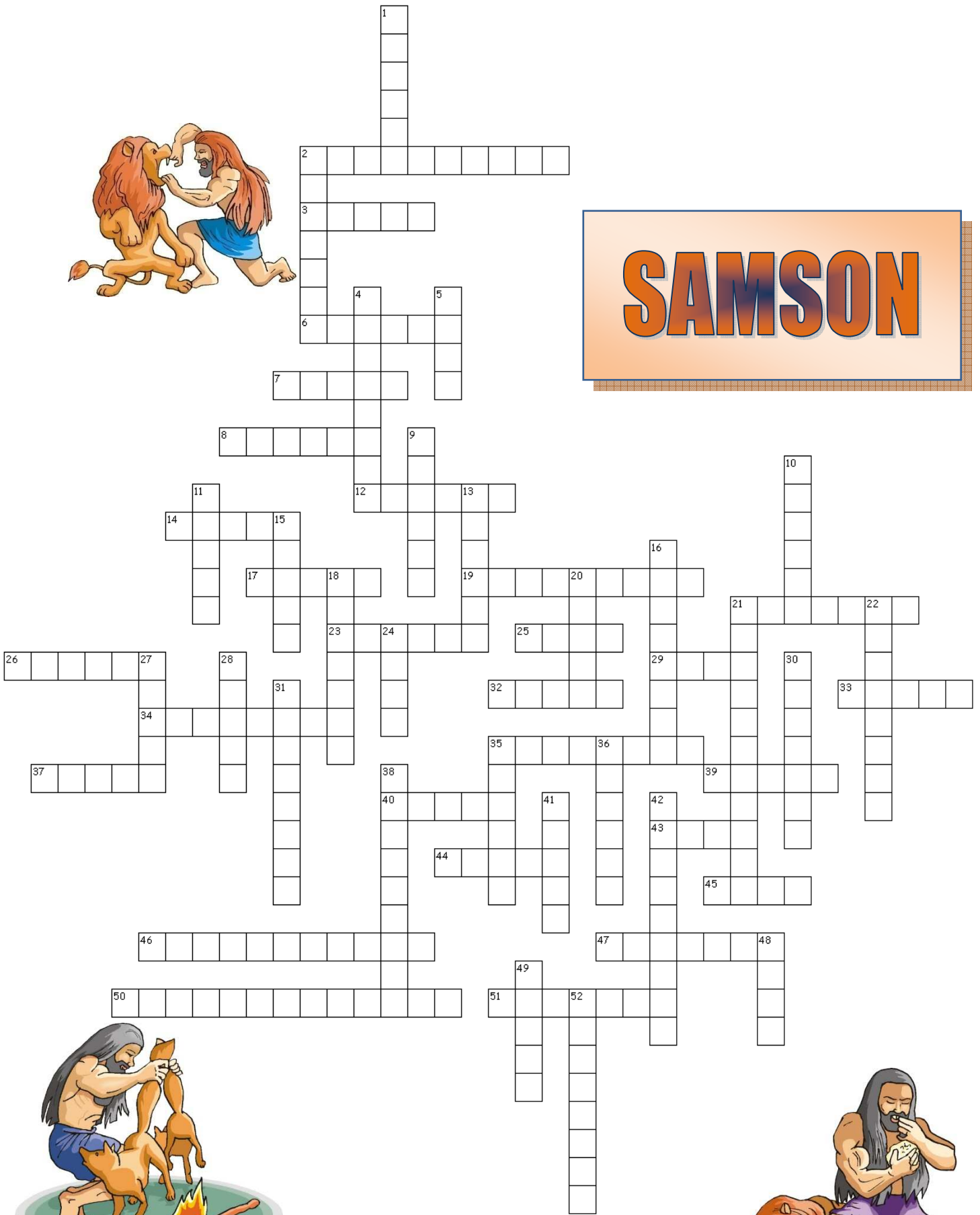
Samson judged Israel in the days of the Philistines _____(35D) years.

Remember – in Judges 13:1 we read that the Philistines oppressed them for forty years, so Samson got them halfway through their time of oppression. As his mother was told, he *began* to deliver Israel out of the hands of the Philistines.

It was up to another great judge to finish the job.



SAMSON



INTERMEDIATE PROJECT

Create Your Own Bible Insert of the Judges!

Find the rest of the information needed to fill in the blanks and complete the chart below. You will be using this chart in your Bible marking class.

Parts of the chart are already filled out for you.

Have Fun!

The Judges of Israel

Reference in Judges	Oppressing Nation	Name of King/Ruler who oppressed them	Years of oppression	Name of Judge	Meaning of Name	Tribe Judge was from	Years Judge ruled / the land was at rest
3:8-11				<i>Othniel</i>			
3:12-30				<i>Ehud</i>			
3:31		<i>unknown</i>	<i>unknown</i>	<i>Shamgar</i>			<i>unknown</i>
4 - 5				<i>Deborah</i>			
6 - 8				<i>Gideon</i>			
10:1-2	<i>unknown</i>	<i>unknown</i>	<i>unknown</i>	<i>Tola</i>			
10:3-5	<i>unknown</i>	<i>unknown</i>	<i>unknown</i>	<i>Jair</i>			
10:6 - 12:7				<i>Jephthah</i>			
12:8 - 10	<i>unknown</i>	<i>unknown</i>	<i>unknown</i>	<i>Ibzan</i>			
12:11 - 12	<i>unknown</i>	<i>unknown</i>	<i>unknown</i>	<i>Elon</i>			
12:13 - 15	<i>unknown</i>	<i>unknown</i>	<i>unknown</i>	<i>Abdon</i>			
13 - 16				<i>Samson</i>			

Name _____

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