

## TTB2022-201 – Week 14 – April 3 to 9

TTB2022-201, Apr 3 to 9	TTB2022-208, May 22 to 28
TTB2022-202, Apr 10 to 16	TTB2022-209, May 29 to Jun 4
TTB2022-203, Apr 17 to 23	TTB2022-110, Jun 5 to 11
TTB2022-204, Apr 24 to 30	TTB2022-111, Jun 12 to 18
TTB2022-205, May 1 to 7	TTB2022-112, Jun 19 to 25
TTB2022-206, May 8 to 14	TTB2022-113, Jun 26 to Jul 2
TTB2022-207, May 15 to 21	

<b>TTB2022-201 – Week 14 – April 3 to 9.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Day 093 – April 3 - Joshua Died—Judges Arose Judg. 1:1-3:30.....	1
Day 094 – April 4 - The Role of Specific Judges Judg. 3:31-6:40.....	3
Day 095 – April 5 - Gideon’s Victory over the Midianites Judg. 7:1-9:21 .....	5
Day 096 – April 6 - God Judges Sin Judg. 9:22-11:28 .....	7
Day 097 – April 7 - Jephthah and Samson Judg. 11:29-15:20 .....	8
Day 098 – April 8 - Samson Kills Many Philistines Judg. 16-18.....	9
Day 099 – April 9 - A Crime of Passion Judg. 19-21 .....	11
Answers to TTB2022-113 Exercises.....	13
TTB2022-201 Exercises.....	13

## Day 093 – April 3 - Joshua Died—Judges Arose Judg. 1:1-3:30

## Judges Chapter One

1. Chapter one is a difficult chapter to use for placing the Book of Judges in context with the Book of Joshua.
  - a. Jdg. 1:1&2 would appear to place the Book of Judges after Josh. 24:29,30.
  - b. The death of Joshua is also recorded in Jdg. 2:6-10, and that passage appears to be the better introduction to the remainder of the Book of Judges.
2. The material from Jdg. 1:3-2:5 forms a general prologue to the Book of Judges, paralleling Josh. 24:31-33 & various other episodes from Joshua, describing the transition from National Conquest to Tribal Conquests.
3. Judah will be the leading Tribe in the era of Tribal Conquest following the death of Joshua (Jdg. 1:2,3).
  - a. During the National Conquest, under Joshua, Judah played a leading role, under Caleb (Jdg. 1:4-15).
    - 1) They destroyed a 10,000 man army at Bezek (Jdg. 1:4-7).
    - 2) They sacked Jerusalem (Jdg. 1:8), but neither they, nor Benjamin (Jdg. 1:21) were subsequently successful in destroying the Jebusite people (Josh. 15:63).
    - 3) They campaigned in the hill country, the Negev, and the western lowland (Jdg. 1:9; Josh. 10:40).
    - 4) They conquered Kiriath-Arba (Hebron), and designated that land for Caleb (Jdg. 1:10; Josh. 10:36,37; 15:13,14).
    - 5) They conquered Kiriath-Sepher (Debir), and designated Caleb’s daughter Achsah for Othniel (Jdg. 1:11-15; Josh. 10:38,39; 15:15-19).

- b. The Kenites were evidently a branch (clan?) of mixed Canaanite (Gen. 15:19) & Jethro-related Midianite (Num. 10:29 cf. Jdg. 1:16; 4:11) origins who associated with Israel for blessing (1<sup>st</sup> Sam. 15:6; 30:29) rather than associating with Moabites for cursing (Num. 25; 31).
- c. During the Tribal Conquest, Judah leads by example and proposes joint combat operations with Simeon (Jdg. 1:17-20).
- 4. The other tribes were not nearly as successful as Judah in their Tribal Conquest (Jdg. 1:21-36).
  - a. Benjamin's greatest failure was not taking Jerusalem (Jdg. 1:21).
  - b. Joseph (Ephraim) took Bethel with a bargain (Jdg. 1:22-26). This appears to violate the command: Make no covenant and show them no favor (Dt. 7:2), yet the Lord was with them for this episode (v.22).
  - c. Manasseh had a five-fold failure (Jdg. 1:27-28; Josh. 17:12,13). Tolerating the alien presence with a "silver lining" benefit of cheap labor becomes all too common.
  - d. Ephraim didn't drive out the Gezers (Jdg. 1:29).
  - e. Zebulun didn't drive out the inhabitants of Kitron or Nahalol (Jdg. 1:30).
  - f. Asher had a spectacular seven-fold successful streak (Jdg. 1:31,32). Worse than Canaanites living among them, Asher lived among the Canaanites!
  - g. Naphtali couldn't beat two Beths (Jdg. 1:33).
  - h. Dan not only failed, but was actively defeated (Jdg. 1:34-36 cf. Josh. 19:40-48).

### Judges Chapter Two

1. The consequence of Israel's repeated failures in their individual Tribal Conquests was a personal Bible class taught by the Angel of the Lord, rebuking them for their lack of obedience (Jdg. 2:1-5).
2. The hinge event marking Israel's apostasy is the death of Joshua, and the elders of the Conquest (Jdg. 2:6-10).
  - a. The Exodus Generation died in the wilderness, between 1445 & 1406BC.
  - b. The Wilderness Generation was under 20 years of age, or not yet born at the first muster (Num. 1:2). They were born after 1465BC, and their "elders" will be a maximum of 59 years old when they cross the Jordan.
  - c. Those too young to fight in the conquest (1406-1399BC) can be thought of as the Post-Conquest Generation. They were born after 1426BC. They become the first generation that forsakes the Lord (Jdg. 2:11-13), that requires the Lord's testing of their conquest ignorance (cf. Jdg. 3:1-4).
3. The pattern for the Book of Judges is then established (Jdg. 2:11-23).
  - a. Apostasy is followed by oppression (Jdg. 2:11-15). The first of 121 references to Baal and Ashtaroth.
  - b. Oppression is followed by the grace provision of a Judge/Deliverer (Jdg. 2:16,18).
  - c. The death of the Judge would bring about another cycle of apostasy (Jdg. 2:17,19).
  - d. The military work of the Judges is deliverance rather than conquest (Jdg. 2:20-23).

### Judges Chapter Three

1. The remnant of the unconquered Philistines and Canaanites will be used by the Lord for His testing of Israel's faithfulness (Jdg. 3:1-4). Note how this generation has a harder test as a consequence of their parents' generation's shortcomings.
2. Israel quickly failed their test, and allowed their mingling with the Canaanites to lead them into idolatry (Jdg. 3:5-7; Ex. 34:15,16; Deut. 7:3,4; Josh. 23:12; Ps. 106:34-43).

3. Their first oppressor was Cushan-Rishathaim (Cushan of Double-wickedness), King of Aram between the rivers (upper Mesopotamia) (Jdg. 3:8).
  - a. Eight years of oppression was enough for Israel to cry out to the Lord (Jdg. 3:8,9a). “Crying out” is at least a partial repentance. How faithful and obedient did the nation become? “The land had rest” until they “again did evil” (v.12).
  - b. God lifted up the first of Israel’s Judges—Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother (Jdg. 3:9-11). Othniel is one of the few Spirit-filled OT saints (Jdg. 3:10).
  - c. The Judgeship of Othniel produced 40 years of rest during his lifetime (Jdg. 3:11). Perhaps 1367-1327BC. (Chronology of the Judges taken from Rusten, E. Michael & Sharon O, The Complete Book of When and Where, Tyndale House Publishers, 2005).
4. Israel’s second oppressor was Eglon, king of Moab (Jdg. 3:12).
  - a. Eglon assembled a force of Moabite, Ammonite, and Amalekite troops.
  - b. Eglon invaded Canaan at the same Jericho location where Joshua invaded Canaan.
  - c. Jericho, while not rebuilt as a fortified city until the reign of Ahab (1<sup>st</sup> Kgs. 16:34), was an inhabited region allotted to Benjamin (Josh. 18:21; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sam. 10:5).
  - d. This time, 18 years of oppression were needed before Israel cried out for deliverance (Jdg. 3:14).
  - e. Judge #2 was a Benjamite—Ehud the son of Gera, a left-handed man.
    - 1) Ehud assassinated Eglon, and escaped to Ephraim (Jdg. 3:15-26).
    - 2) Ehud led a military force against the Moabite armies, and gave Israel an eighty year rest from oppression (Jdg. 3:27-30). Perhaps 1309-1229BC.
5. Judge #3 was Shamgar the son of Anath, who delivered Israel from the Philistines (Jdg. 3:31). Shamgar may not even have been Jewish (!) and apparently Judged as a contemporary of Ehud. Perhaps 1230BC.

#### Day 094 – April 4 - The Role of Specific Judges **Jdg. 3:31-6:40**

##### Judges Chapter Four

1. The third oppressor of Israel was Jabin, the Canaanite king of Hazor (Jdg. 4:2).
  - a. This Jabin is likely a descendant of the Jabin, King of Hazor, that led the northern Canaanite alliance against Joshua (Josh. 11:1-14).
  - b. His commanding general was Sisera, who commanded an invasion force of 900 iron chariots.
  - c. This time, it took 20 years of oppression before Israel cried out to the Lord for deliverance.
2. Judge #4 was the prophetess Deborah, the wife of Lappidoth.
  - a. Deborah. דְּבוּרָה d<sup>e</sup>bowrāh <sup>#1682</sup> (Gen. 35:8; 9x in Jdg. 4; 5) & <sup>1683</sup>: bee (Deut. 1:44; Jdg. 14:8; Ps. 118:12; Isa. 7:18).
  - b. Woman אִשָּׁה <sup>#802</sup>: *wife, woman* + Prophetess נְבִיאָה n<sup>e</sup>biy’āh <sup>#5031</sup>: fem. of prophet: *prophetess*.
    - 1) Miriam (Ex. 15:20), Huldah (2<sup>nd</sup> Kgs. 22:14), & Mrs. Isaiah (Isa. 8:3) were all prophetesses in the OT.
    - 2) Anna (Lk. 2:36), and the four daughters of Philip the evangelist (Acts 21:9) were prophetesses in the NT.
    - 3) Noadiah (Neh. 6:14) and Jezebel (Rev. 2:20) were false prophetesses.
  - c. Lappidoth: torches. Otherwise unknown.
  - d. Deborah’s “office” was under a palm tree between Ramah and Bethel, where Israel would come to her for judgment (Jdg. 4:5; cf. Deut. 17:9; 19:17).

3. Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali.
  - a. Barak. בָּרָק *bārāq* <sup>#1301</sup>: *lightning, lightning flash*.
  - b. Some have been tempted to identify Barak with Lappidoth, but context and linguistic evidence doesn't support that idea very well.
  - c. Barak was a well-known military commander from the tribe of Naphtali, whom Deborah commissioned for the war against Sisera.
  - d. Barak is usually thought of as Judge #5. Although he is not called a Judge here, he is referred to elsewhere with the Judges (Heb. 11:32 & likely 1<sup>st</sup> Sam. 12:11).
4. Deborah commissions Barak according to the Word of the Lord (Jdg. 4:6,7).
  - a. Barak won't go without Deborah's accompaniment (Jdg. 4:8).
  - b. Deborah consents to go with him, but also prophesies that the glory will be given to a woman (Jdg. 4:9).
5. Barak assembles an army of Zebulun & Naphtali for the battle against Sisera (Jdg. 4:10; 5:18).
  - a. They were joined by volunteers from Ephraim, Benjamin, Machir (a clan of Manasseh), and Issachar (Jdg. 5:14,15a).
  - b. They were ignored by Reuben, Gilead (Gad, and Manasseh clans), Dan, & Asher (Jdg. 5:15b-17).
6. Sisera has an ally among the people of Israel—Heber the Kenite (Jdg. 4:11). "From out of nowhere, and for no immediately apparent reason, the narrator introduces a new character, Heber the Kenite." [Daniel Block, NAC: Judges, Ruth] See the TTB Day 093 notes on the Kenites.
7. Sisera leads his armored divisions against Barak's infantry, but the victory was the Lord's (Jdg. 4:12-16).
8. Sisera fled the battle on foot, and found a refuge in his ally's tent (Jdg. 4:17-22).
  - a. Jael (Mrs. Heber) invited Sisera in, and tended to his needs.
  - b. Jael then executed the enemy general, fulfilling Deborah's prophecy (Jdg. 4:9,21).
9. The destruction of Sisera's army was followed by the overthrow of Jabin (Jdg. 4:23,24).

### Judges Chapter Five

1. Chapter Five is a hymn, sung by Deborah & Barak, to give the glory to the Lord for His victory over Sisera.
2. The hymn of praise celebrates the volunteer army of leaders and people, who stepped forward to serve the Lord (Jdg. 5:2).
3. Just as the Wilderness Generation went forth from Sinai in the shadow of God's power, Deborah's generation went forth against Sisera in the shadow of God's power (Jdg. 5:3-5).
4. Deborah describes the terrible conditions of Israel, as a result of their own idolatry prior to Deborah's rise to office (Jdg. 5:6-8).
5. Deborah is thankful that faithful leaders and people who came forward to serve the Lord (Jdg. 5:9-11).
6. Deborah reviews the faithful tribes who participated in the battle, and the faithless tribes who did not (Jdg. 5:12-18).
7. Deborah describes the battle, in human, angelic, and Divine terms (Jdg. 5:19-22).
8. Meroz is cursed (Jdg. 5:23), but Jael is most blessed (Jdg. 5:24-27).
9. Sisera's mother is anxiously awaiting a return which will not happen (Jdg. 5:28-30).
10. The song is concluded, and mention is made of Israel's peace—forty years undisturbed (Jdg. 5:31). Perhaps 1209-1169BC.

**Judges Chapter Six**

1. The fourth oppressor was Midian (Jdg. 6:1-6).
  - a. They oppressed Israel for seven years.
  - b. They enlisted the assistance of the Amalekites.
2. The Lord dispatched a man, a prophet (אִישׁ נְבִיאַא 'iysh nābiy') to rebuke Israel for their disobedience (Jdg. 6:7-10). The only prophet in the book of Judges other than Deborah, and he is left unnamed in the text.
3. The Angel of the Lord appears to a young Manassite named Gideon (Jdg. 6:11-24).
  - a. Gideon is threshing wheat in a wine press, hiding from the Midianites (Jdg. 6:11).
  - b. Gideon is a mighty man of valor (Jdg. 6:12). גִּבּוֹר הַהֵרִיִל. See the TTB Day 85 notes on Josh. 6 for this description.
  - c. Gideon is grieved over the current oppression of Israel, and doesn't see any human solution to their problem (Jdg. 6:13).
4. The Lord commissions Gideon to deliver Israel, but Gideon remains skeptical (Jdg. 6:14-40).
  - a. Gideon wants to see a sign (Jdg. 6:17).
  - b. The miraculous burnt offering humbles Gideon (Jdg. 6:19-24).
  - c. Gideon's first assignment is to destroy the Baal altar in his father's house, and build an altar to the Lord in its place (Jdg. 6:25-27).
  - d. The men of Ophrah demanded that Joash the Abiezrite surrender his son for what he did to the Baal altar, but Joash defended Gideon, and renamed him Jerubbaal (Jdg. 6:28-32).
  - e. The Midianite forces mustered in Jezreel, and Gideon assembled an army of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali to fight against them (Jdg. 6:33-35).
  - f. Gideon is one of the few OT saints to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Jdg. 6:34).
  - g. Gideon's faith wavers, and he asks the Lord twice to prove His presence (Jdg. 6:36-38,39-40).
5. The faithfulness and longsuffering of the Lord is demonstrated by His tolerance of Gideon's testing the Lord (Deut. 6:16).

**Day 095 – April 5 - Gideon's Victory over the Midianites Judg. 7:1-9:21****Judges Chapter Seven**

1. Gideon's volunteer army of 32,000 soldiers was too large for God to receive all the glory (Jdg. 7:1-8).
  - a. Following the Lord's instructions, Gideon dismissed 22,000 cowards, and was left with 10,000 soldiers who were there by faith (Jdg. 7:3; Deut. 20:8).
  - b. Following the Lord's instructions, Gideon dismissed 9,700 soldiers who knelt to drink, and kept the 300 soldiers, who lapped their water like a dog (Jdg. 7:5,6).
2. Gideon and his 300 water lappers were then ready to defeat Midian (Jdg. 7:7,8).
3. Gideon and his armor bearer scouted the Midianite camp, and received even more encouragement from the Lord (Jdg. 7:9-14).
4. Gideon's 300 men held a torch in one hand and a trumpet in the other (no swords), while the Lord put Midian to flight (Jdg. 7:15-22).
  - a. The Midianite, Amalekite, and other eastern nomads were thrown into a panic.
  - b. These "allies" turned against one another, and then turned to flee from Israel.

5. Gideon then reassembled his previous army of Naphtali, Asher, & Manasseh, and pursued the fleeing Midianites (Jdg. 7:23).
6. Ephraim was instrumental in cutting off the Midianite retreat at the Jordan, and capturing Oreb and Zeeb (Jdg. 7:24,25 cf. Ps. 83:11).

### Judges Chapter Eight

1. The chapter begins with a complaint by Ephraim that they weren't allowed to join with Gideon at the initial battle (Jdg. 8:1-3).
2. The delay by Gideon, in answering Ephraim's complaint allowed for a remnant of Midian to flee across the Jordan.
  - a. The Midianite remnant was led by Zebah and Zalmunna (Jdg. 8:10).
  - b. They led 15,000 men out of a total of 120,000 that had been occupying Israel (Jdg. 8:10b).
3. Gideon pursues the 15,000 men with his 300 water lappers (Jdg. 8:4).
  - a. They request provisions from Succoth and Penuel (Jdg. 8:5,8a).
  - b. Succoth and Penuel prefer to reserve their assistance until such time as the victory is secured (Jdg. 8:6,8b).
  - c. Gideon pronounces a curse upon Succoth and Penuel for their lack of assistance (Jdg. 8:7,9).
  - d. Gideon's force pursues Zebah and Zalmunna, and obtains the victory without Succoth's and Penuel's participation (Jdg. 8:11,12).
4. Gideon fulfills his promise of discipline for Succoth and Penuel (Jdg. 8:13-17).
5. Gideon also attempts to instruct his sons in the responsibilities of Judgeship (Jdg. 8:18-21).
6. Following the victory over Midian, the men of Israel offered Gideon's house a dynastic kingdom (Jdg. 8:22-28).
  - a. Gideon refused the dynastic rule, but he did accept tribute from the sons of Israel.
  - b. Gideon's monument to himself (a golden ephod) became an idolatrous snare to him and the nation of Israel.
7. The peace of Gideon lasted 40 years, while Gideon and his sons administered justice. Perhaps 1162-1122BC.
  - a. Gideon had 70 sons by his many wives (Jdg. 8:30). He also had a concubine in Shechem who was the mother of Abimelech (Jdg. 8:31; 9:1-57).
  - b. Gideon is the first of the Judges to engage in widespread polygamy (Jdg. 8:30).
    - 1) Jair will have 30 sons on 30 donkeys, judging 30 cities in Gilead (Jdg. 10:4).
    - 2) Ibzan of Bethlehem will have 30 sons and 30 daughters (Jdg. 12:9).
    - 3) Abdon will have 40 sons and 30 grandsons (Jdg. 12:14).
8. The death of Gideon marked the return of Israel to Baal worship, as they pursued Baal-berith (Jdg. 8:33-35).
  - a. The sons of Gideon would have otherwise been an influence for the Lord.
  - b. Israel rejected Gideon's sons, as they turned to Baal-berith.

### Judges Chapter Nine

1. Chapter nine details the activity of Abimelech, Gideon's son from Shechem.
2. While Israel was abandoning Gideon's 70 sons, their brother Abimelech was instituting a revolt at Shechem (Jdg. 9:2,3).
  - a. Shechem was allotted to Ephraim.

- b. Shechem was given to Levi, and appointed as a City of Refuge (Josh. 20:7; 21:21).
- c. There were still many of the original Canaanite inhabitants living in Shechem during this time (Jdg. 9:3,28).
3. Abimelech took 70 pieces of silver from the Baal-berith temple, hired a criminal gang, and murdered Gideon's sons in a ritual human sacrifice (Jdg. 9:4,5).
4. The men of Shechem & Beth-millo (the tower of Shechem, the fortress/temple/house of Baal) installed Abimelech as their king (Jdg. 9:6).
5. Jotham escaped the massacre of his brothers, and pronounced a parable for the inhabitants of Shechem (Jdg. 9:7-21).

### Day 096 – April 6 - God Judges Sin Judg. 9:22-11:28

#### Judges Chapter Nine

6. Abimelech's reign was not a happy one (Jdg. 9:22ff.).
  - a. Gaal, a native Canaanite, and descendant of Hamor & Shechem, initiates a revolt against Abimelech (Jdg. 9:26-29).
  - b. Zebul, Abimelech's lieutenant & ruler of the city of Shechem, used Gaal's revolt as a cover for his own revolt (Jdg. 9:30-33,41).
  - c. Abimelech defeated Gaal and his forces (Jdg. 9:34-40), Zebul and the city of Shechem (Jdg. 9:42-45), and the leaders of the tower of Shechem (Beth-millo, the fortress/temple/house of Baal) (Jdg. 9:46-49).
7. When Abimelech turned his conquering efforts towards Thebez, he conquered the city, but was struck down at the tower (Jdg. 9:50-55 cf. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sam. 11:21).
8. Through all of this fighting, the Lord maintained His Sovereign purpose, and accomplished His judgment upon Abimelech and Shechem (Jdg. 9:56,57).

#### Judges Chapter Ten

1. The 7th Judge was Tola ben Puah ben Dodo (Jdg. 10:1,2).
  - a. He was from the tribe of Issachar, but he ministered in Ephraim.
  - b. He judged Israel for 23 years. Perhaps 1119-1096BC.
2. The 8th Judge was Jair (Jdg. 10:3-5).
  - a. He was a Gileadite (eastern Manasseh, Num. 26:29-32).
  - b. He judged Israel for 22 years. After Tola? Simultaneously with Tola? Perhaps 1096-1074BC.
  - c. He presided over a college of 30 sons, who judged 30 cities of Gilead. Havvoth-jair was already named (Num. 32:41; Dt. 3:14; Josh. 13:30).
3. The fifth and sixth oppressors of Israel were the Philistines and the Ammonites (Jdg. 10:7).
4. This time it took 18 years of oppression to cause Israel to cry out for deliverance (Jdg. 10:8-10).
5. The Lord rebuked Israel for their idolatry, and highlighted seven other oppressions, not previously recorded (Jdg. 10:11-14).
6. Israel responded to the Lord's rebuke by putting away their idols, and looking for a deliverer (Jdg. 10:15-18).

#### Judges Chapter Eleven

1. The 9th Judge was Jephthah, another Gileadite.
  - a. Like Gideon, Jephthah was a mighty man of valor.

- b. He was the bastard son of a harlot, and driven out of Gilead by his brothers.
  - c. In the land of Tob, Jephthah became a leader of worthless fellows: רֵיקָם רֵיקָם רֵיקָם רֵיקָם reyq<sup>#7386</sup>: empty, vain, idle, worthless (ethically).
2. Jephthah was not called by the Lord. He was called by the elders of Gilead, and called the Lord as his witness (Jdg. 11:4-11).
  3. Jephthah sent word to the Ammonites, and sought unsuccessfully to resolve the war through accurate Bible teaching (Jdg. 11:12-28).

### Day 097 – April 7 - Jephthah and Samson Judg. 11:29-15:20

#### Judges Chapter Eleven

4. God imbued His Spirit into Jephthah, and Jephthah went forth under the leading of God the Holy Spirit (Jdg. 11:29).
  - a. He joins Othniel, Gideon, and Samson as the only 4 Judges said to have received the Holy Spirit.
  - b. Jephthah vowed a dedication to the Lord in gratitude to the Lord for the upcoming victory (Jdg. 11:30,31).
    - 1) It shall be the Lord's [and/or]
    - 2) I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering.
  - c. The Lord provided Jephthah with a tremendous victory—20 cities of the Ammonites (Jdg. 11:32,33).
5. When Jephthah returned home, he sadly fulfilled his vow to the Lord (Jdg. 11:34-40).
  - a. Some scholars believe that Jephthah offered his daughter up as a burnt offering, violating Mosaic Law (Lev. 20:2-3).
  - b. Most scholars believe that Jephthah's daughter was given to the service of the tabernacle (Ex. 38:8; 1<sup>st</sup> Sam. 2:22; Lk. 2:37).

#### Judges Chapter Twelve

1. Ephraim complains to Jephthah that they weren't invited to the Ammonite war (Jdg. 12:1 cf. 8:1-3).
2. Jephthah replies that Ephraim had the chance to help, but chose not to (Jdg. 12:2,3).
3. Jephthah then initiated hostilities against Ephraim for their disdain (Jdg. 12:4-7). Our shibboleths are shameful, producing pronunciation prejudices, turning differences into destructive divisions.
4. The 10th Judge was Ibzan of Bethlehem (Jdg. 12:8-10). He was another polygamous judge, who engaged in tremendous inter-tribal marriage alliances for his thirty sons and thirty daughters. These endeavors took considerably longer than the seven years Ibzan spent judging Israel.
5. The 11th Judge was Elon, the Zebulunite (Jdg. 12:11,12). He followed Ibzan and judged Israel for ten years.
6. The 12th Judge was Abdon, the Pirathonite (Jdg. 12:13-15). He presided over two generations of 70 sons and grandsons.

#### Judges Chapter Thirteen

1. The seventh major oppressor of Israel was the Philistines, for a 40 year period of oppression (Jdg. 13:1).
2. The Lord's call of Samson as the 13th Judge occurred before his birth (Jdg. 13:2-23).
  - a. Manoah and his wife are charged by the Lord with raising a special son, under life-long Nazirite-vow conditions (Jdg. 13:5; Num. 6).
  - b. Manoah and his wife are faithful believers in a tribe of faithless unbelievers (Jdg. 13:2; 18:1-31).



3. Samson is born, and the Holy Spirit started to stir him to action from an early age (Jdg. 13:24,25).

### Judges Chapter Fourteen

1. Samson “fell in love” with an attractive Philistine woman (Jdg. 14:1,2). He “saw her” and “she looked good” to him.
  - a. Manoah disapproved of the marriage to an uncircumcised Philistine (Jdg. 14:3; Dt. 7:3 cf. 1<sup>st</sup> Sam. 17:26,36).
  - b. The Lord had engineered the attraction so He could begin to deliver Israel from the Philistine oppression (Jdg. 14:4).
2. Samson’s first act of might was to tear a lion in half bare-handed (Jdg. 14:5-9).
3. While Manoah was contracting for Samson’s marriage, Samson was observing Philistine wedding customs (Jdg. 14:10,11).
  - a. He feasted and riddled with the Philistines (Jdg. 14:12-14).
  - b. His wife nagged him into revealing the answer to the riddle (Jdg. 14:15-18).
4. Samson paid his wager with the clothes of thirty Philistines, and the bride was married to the best man (Jdg. 14:19,20).

### Judges Chapter Fifteen

1. Samson went down to Timnah, thinking that he was married (Jdg. 15:1,2).
2. He is angered at the loss of his wife, and takes vengeance upon the Philistines (Jdg. 15:3-5).
  - a. The Philistines responded to Samson’s revenge with their own revenge—killing Samson’s almost-wife and almost-father-in-law (Jdg. 15:6).
  - b. Samson responded to the Philistines revenge of his revenge with another revenge—a great slaughter (Jdg. 15:7,8).
3. The Philistines invade Judah as revenge for Samson’s 2<sup>nd</sup> revenge of the Philistines’ 1<sup>st</sup> revenge for Samson’s 1<sup>st</sup> revenge (Jdg. 15:9-16). Notice how human vengeance never ends!
  - a. Judah agrees to deliver Samson to the Philistines in exchange for their departure from Judah.
  - b. Samson agrees to be delivered to the Philistines.
  - c. When given to the Philistines, Samson snapped the ropes, and killed 1000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey.
4. Samson served 20 years as a judge (Jdg. 15:17-20; 16:31), ostensibly to deliver Israel, but really just living a life of debauchery.

### Day 098 – April 8 - Samson Kills Many Philistines Judg. 16-18

### Judges Chapter Sixteen

1. Despite the ending to chapter fifteen (Jdg. 15:20), Samson’s profligacy wasn’t done. He spent the evening with a Philistine prostitute (Jdg. 16:1-3).
  - a. The Philistines surrounded the place, and intended to kill Samson in the morning.
  - b. Samson thwarted their intentions with another demonstration of Divine might.
2. Samson “fell in love” with another Philistine woman—Delilah from the valley of Sorek.
  - a. Delilah. דְּלִיָּלָה d<sup>e</sup>liylāh #1807: feeble.
  - b. Josephus calls her a harlot (Ant.V.8.11).

- c. She obeys the Lords of the Philistines (Josh. 13:3; Jdg. 3:3) agreeing to “entice” Samson into giving up the secret of his strength (Jdg. 16:5).
3. Three times she entices Samson into revealing his secret. Each time he lies to her, and uses the snare to kill more Philistines (Jdg. 16:6-14).
4. Finally, Samson tells Delilah about his Nazirite vow, and the prohibition against shaving (Jdg. 16:15-17).
5. Samson is enslaved, and kept as entertainment for the Philistines (Jdg. 16:18-27).
6. Samson’s final victory was his own suicidal vengeance (Jdg. 16:28-31).
7. Hebrews 11 provides a remarkable commentary on the Judges, listing Samson along with Gideon, Barak, and Samson as heroes of faith (Heb. 11:32).

### Judges Chapter Seventeen

1. The final portion of Judges (chapters 17-21) forms an appendix to the book.
  - a. Various tragic stories reflect the lawless conditions of the period.
  - b. Israel was politically lawless.
  - c. Israel was Mosaically lawless.
2. Chapter 17 begins with an introduction to Micah.
  - a. An Ephraimite during the late period of the Judges (Jdg. 17:1).
  - b. Other Micah’s in the Old Testament:
    - 1) Head of a family of Reuben (1<sup>st</sup> Chr. 5:5).
    - 2) A son of Mephibosheth & grandson of Jonathan (1<sup>st</sup> Chr. 8:34,35).
    - 3) A Levite of the family of Asaph (1<sup>st</sup> Chr. 9:15). Perhaps the same as #2.
    - 4) A Kohathite (1<sup>st</sup> Chr. 23:20; 24:24,25).
    - 5) The father of Abdon, whom Josiah sent to inquire of the Lord when the book of the law was found (2<sup>nd</sup> Chr. 34:20).
    - 6) The Minor Prophet, of Moresheth-gath (Mic. 1:1; Jer. 26:18).
3. Micah confesses to his mother the theft of 1,100 pieces of silver (Jdg. 17:2).
  - a. Micah’s mother had previously cursed the unknown thief.
  - b. Micah’s mother now blesses Micah for his honesty.
  - c. Micah’s mother dedicates the silver “to the Lord” and funds Micah’s idolatry.
4. Micah’s household idolatry is then described (Jdg. 17:4,5).
  - a. A graven & molten image.
  - b. A house shrine.
  - c. An ephod.
  - d. A teraphim.
  - e. A son to serve as family priest.
5. The summary statement of societal conditions is in agreement with other periods of time within the Book of Judges (Jdg. 17:6 cp. 18:1; 19:1; 21:25).
6. A second character is introduced (Jdg. 17:7).
  - a. A young man.
  - b. From Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah (father’s side? Or just drifting?).

- c. A Levite, specifically Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Moses (Jdg. 18:30).
- 7. This fly-by-night Levite is looking for a place to live and work, so Micah hires him as his household priest (Jdg. 17:8-13).

### Judges Chapter Eighteen

1. The lawless period of Judges is furthermore described by the roaming bands of Danites (Jdg. 18:1,2).
  - a. Dan had been given an inheritance and allotment (Josh. 19:40-48). They were the last tribe to receive their inheritance, but they did receive one.
  - b. Dan had been unable/unwilling to conquer the land the Lord gave them (Jdg. 1:34; 3:3).
  - c. Dan decided to find their own land (Josh. 19:47; Jdg. 18:1,2,29).
2. The Danites recognized the fly-by-night Levite, and ask him to inquire of the Lord for the success of their mission (Jdg. 18:3-6).
3. The Danites observe the Sidonian citizens of Laish (Lemesh in Josh.), and view a people they can conquer (Jdg. 18:7-10).
4. The staging-area of Dan becomes known for this event (Jdg. 18:12), and helps date these chapters as coming before the judgeship of Samson (Jdg. 13:25), and likely during the last days of Joshua, or earliest days of the Judges (i.e. Josh. 19:40-48).
5. The armies of Dan offer a promotion to the fly-by-night Levite (Jdg. 18:13-26).
6. Dan establishes a rival religion, which will continue until the captivity (Jdg. 18:27-31).
  - a. This captivity is more likely the Philistine captivity rather than the Assyrian captivity (Jdg. 13-16; Ps. 78:61).
  - b. Dan's idolatry fit in well with Jeroboam's idolatry (1<sup>st</sup> Kgs. 12:29,30).

### Day 099 – April 9 - A Crime of Passion Judg. 19-21

#### Judges Chapter Nineteen

1. Chapter 19 introduces a new character—yet another Levite dwelling in Ephraim.
2. This Levite was willing to take back his unfaithful concubine (Jdg. 19:1-9).
3. This Levite was unwilling to spend the night in a Canaanite city (Jdg. 19:10-13).
4. The Levite was pleased to celebrate with a fellow Ephraimite (Jdg. 19:14-21).
5. The ugly scene which follows reminds the reader of Lot in the city of Sodom (Jdg. 19:22-30; Gen. 19:1-11).
6. The aftermath of this incident is far worse than the aftermath Lot's incident (incest).

#### Judges Chapter Twenty

1. The Levite's dismembered concubine incites all Israel to action (Jdg. 19:29,30).
2. Israel (minus Benjamin) assembles themselves, ready for action (Jdg. 20:1,2).
  - a. They are "as one man" in a lemming-like lockstep (Jdg. 20:1,8,11).  
Ever read Charles Mackay? *Memoirs of Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* (1852). How about Dr. Mattias Desmet? He calls this phenomenon "mass formation psychosis" (2020).
  - b. They are bound by foolish vows (Jdg. 21:1,5,7).
3. The Levite recites his testimony, and his audience is impassioned to punish Gibeah for their evil (Jdg. 20:3-11). Note: the responsibility to deal with an apostate city belongs to the clan(s) and/or tribe to deal with (Dt. 13:12-18). See the notes in TTB Day 077.

4. The Self-righteous Opponents of Benjamin demanded jurisdiction over the guilty Sons of Belial (Jdg. 20:12,13a).
5. When Benjamin refuses their demands, a civil war ensues (Jdg. 20:13b-17). Note: these combined tribal forces were supposed to be finishing the Tribal Conquest left unfinished in the days of Joshua.
6. The Self-righteous Opponents of Benjamin endured two humiliating defeats before their final, crushing victory (Jdg. 20:18-48). Interesting how the Lord through Phinehas kept goading them on (Jdg. 20:18,23,26,27,28,35).
  - a. The Benjamite military is destroyed, with only a remnant fleeing to Rimmon for a four month refuge (Jdg. 20:47).
  - b. The Self-righteous Opponents of Benjamin inflicted a near-total destruction of the Benjamite civilian population (Jdg. 20:48).

### Judges Chapter Twenty-One

1. At the time that the Self-righteous Opponents of Benjamin vowed to defeat Benjamin martially, they also vowed to punish Benjamin maritally (Jdg. 21:1).
2. This oath also included a “great oath” to execute any clans who did not participate in the action against Benjamin (Jdg. 21:5).
3. Following the crushing defeat of Benjamin, the Self-righteous Opponents of Benjamin realized that their vow to deny Benjamite marriages will result in Benjamite extinction (Jdg. 21:2,3). At this point they are beginning to return to sanity but they fail to inquire of the Lord.
4. Israel was delighted to discover that the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead were not party to the vow of Mizpah (Jdg. 21:4-10).
  - a. Jabesh-gilead then became the victim of “the great oath.”
  - b. The Self-righteous Opponents of Benjamin put Jabesh-gilead to the sword, and captured 400 virgins for Benjamin’s survival (Jdg. 21:11,12).
5. In the peace talks with the 600 Benjamite fugitives, the Self-righteous Opponents of Benjamin found themselves 200 virgins short (Jdg. 21:13-15).
6. The Self-righteous Opponents of Benjamin concocted a scheme by which 200 of their daughters could be kidnapped by Benjamin, thereby keeping their vow to not “give” Benjamin any of their daughters (Jdg. 21:16-24).
7. Judges concludes with the repeated statement of societal chaos via personal rightness (Jdg. 17:6; 21:25 cf. Prov. 12:15; 21:2).

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### Answers to TTB2022-113 Exercises

1. Judah
2. True
3. Nine and one-half
4. False
5. Judah
6. True
7. In Shiloh.
8. Leshem (Laish)
9. Forty-eight

### TTB2022-201 Exercises

1. How many soldiers were with Gideon when they confronted the Midianite army?  
Answer:
2. The death of Gideon marked the return of Israel to \_\_\_\_\_ worship.  
Answer:
3. How long did Jair serve as Judge of Israel?  
Answer:
4. Who were the four judges said to have received the Holy Spirit?  
Answer:
5. Which Judge of Israel lived his life under a Nazirite vow?  
Answer:
6. Which was the leading tribe in the era of Tribal Conquest?  
Answer:
7. Who was the military leader of the tribe of Judah?  
Answer:
8. What was considered the tribe of Benjamin's greatest failure?  
Answer:
9. What nations' armies supported Eglon's oppression of Israel?  
Answer:
10. Where was Deborah's "office"?  
Answer: