

2019 Through the Bible Reading: Bible Study Support

The Book of Judges	
Background (Who, what, why, when)	<p>In the narrative of the Hebrew Bible, it covers the time between the conquest described in the book of Joshua and the establishment of a kingdom in the books of Samuel during which Biblical judges served as temporary leaders. The stories follow a consistent pattern: the people are unfaithful to Yahweh and He therefore delivers them into the hands of their enemies; the people repent and entreat Yahweh for mercy, which he sends in the form of a leader or champion and then the judge delivers the Israelites from oppression and they prosper, but soon they fall again into unfaithfulness and the cycle is repeated. After Joshua led the people of Israel into the Promised Land, He gave a warning for the people to obey the Torah and to drive out ALL of the inhabitants of the land. This did not happen, and the people became progressively more and more like the Canaanites. The book of Judges lays out the pattern of God’s people in a series of cycles with a downward spiral. They sinned (became like the wicked Canaanites), were oppressed by their neighbors, repented and cried out to God, were delivered by a “Judge,” entered into a time of peace, and then repeated this same cycle over and over again. The Judges weren’t the type you may be thinking of, a person sitting in a courtroom presiding over legal cases, but rather were regional, political and military leaders similar to tribal chieftains.</p> <p>A warning as you read this: This book is disturbing and violent and testifies of the tragedy of disobeying God’s gracious ways. The people of God who were supposed to be holy and different from the Canaanites acted just like them and became worse and worse. Even the judges made bad decisions and did horrific, evil things. Although the Spirit of God empowered these judges to bring deliverance to His people, He did not endorse their bad decisions. God is so committed to saving His people that He uses broken and imperfect people to accomplish the needed deliverance. These stories serve as warnings, and ultimately suggest that Israel needs to be delivered from itself. The same is true of our own lives. We so desperately needed a savior and God heard the cry of our heart.</p> <p>This book has hidden within it a glimmer of hope: A repeated phrase throughout the book of Judges has echoed throughout human history, <i>“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”</i> In fact, Judges ends with this statement. This sets the stage for the books that follow, identifying the need for God’s grace to send a king to rescue His people.</p>
Interesting Facts in Judges	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Judges chronicles the history of the land of Israel from approximately 1380-1060 BC; almost three centuries. 2 It is unknown who wrote this book. 3 There were twelve judges written about in this book: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon and Samson. 4 Violence, rape, sex, war and massacre fill the chapters of this book. Life apart from God’s life of virtue and faith are sadly chronicled through this sad time in human history. 5 The stories are not written as we would expect, with clear punishment immediately following the transgressions of the corrupt leaders, but rather a kind of matter-of-fact indifference in the narration.
Reasonable Defense for the faith in	Memory is an amazing gift. The problem in the book of Judges, is that the

Judges	<p>people of God forgot to remember God’s promises. They forgot who they were, who their God was and what He had delivered them from. The raw facts of these stories are a great reminder to us that the Bible is true. Why would anyone record these details if they were making this up? As a history of a nation, why would they include all of their dirty laundry? These are the facts of history of the people of God: the good, the bad and the ugly. May we remember where we came from, remember that our God loves us passionately and He will even use broken people to help us, and let us remember that we are made in the image of an amazing God.</p>
Memory Verse	<p><i>“When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel” (Judges 2:10 NKJV).</i></p>
Practical Application to memory verse	<p>As disciples of Jesus Christ, the Christian church is challenged to go and make disciples who make disciples who make disciples... How crucial this is to start in our own homes as we train up our children to know and serve God (Proverbs 22:6).</p>
Life Application from Biblical Themes in Judges	<p>“God, as it turns out, does not require good people in order to do good work...(He) does some of his best work using the most unlikely people.” Eugene Peterson</p> <p>As you read through the book of Judges this week, ask God to speak to you about how you are living and who you are in Christ. Perhaps you need to forgive someone that has not lived a perfect life, someone that has made some bad decisions. If you have a question about your position with God be sure to visit: https://www.sdrock.com/knowgod/ If you would like to grow your faith, just text the word “saved” to 52525 and you will receive additional resources. And to help another person to begin their journey with God, text the word “share” to 52525 and follow the prompts.</p>