

Week 2 (2nd Qtr) Study Questions

1. In Judges 6:1-10, the children of Israel find themselves in a difficult situation with the Midianites. What does the Bible say is the reason for this difficulty? How is this related to God's promises to Israel from our study of Exodus and Joshua?
2. Again Read Judges 6:11-16. Now, what is so ironic about the angel's address of Gideon in Judges 6:12 when he says, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!"? (i.e. Where is Gideon? Is he behaving with valor?) Sometimes God knows more about you than you do! Here God saw the courage in Gideon even before Gideon knew that flame of bravery was even there. List five things that you should have done that you have not done for God because of fear, and pray for God to see and to nurture the "Mighty Person of Valor" in you!
3. What is significant about the acts of hospitality that Gideon demonstrates in Judges 6:17-24? (Cultural significance and spiritual significance of the sign.)
4. God asks Gideon to do a difficult task and Gideon carries out this task ignoring the social and legal consequences. (Judges 6:25-35) What is the task? What is Gideon at risk of facing after this task is complete? What humorous statement does Gideon's father, Joash, make in defense of his son? Because of these events by what alternate name was Gideon now known?
5. Even after his encounter with the Angel of God, Gideon needs more evidence from God. What were the signs that Gideon requested of God related to wool? (Judges 6:36-40) How does this compare with John the Baptizer, while in prison, sending his disciples to Jesus for further signs and confirmation that Jesus was the Messiah even after he saw the Spirit descending on Christ as a dove and had heard the voice of God saying, "This is my beloved Son..."?
6. Describe the selection process that God asks Gideon the use to select the "army" that will attack the many thousands of Mideonites in Judges 7:1-8? What were the numbers at the start, middle, and end of the process? Why did God want Gideon to do this?
7. Judges 7:9-25 tells the story of the great battle that God gave to Israel through Gideon and his men. Write a sentence or two about each the following elements of the battle: Intelligence gathering and information discovered, battle planning and troop movement, battle start, and ending battles/skirmishes.
8. Often personal success results in jealousy and spite. Gideon also experiences this in Judges 8:1-21. How does Gideon handle this political pressure? What is the final outcome and fate of his enemies from Midian?
9. One of the major proofs that the Bible is truth is the fact that even those who we would consider Bible Heroes are show to us in full view of their sins and flaws. What major sin and flaw does the Bible revile about Gideon (Jerubbaal) in Judges 8:22-28?
10. **STRETCH QUESTION:** In Judges 8:29-35, we see the last of the days of Gideon. In verse 34, the children of Israel go astray because they do not do something. What is it they failed to? Consider our New Testament worship. What act of worship to we carry out to prevent us from making the same failure in our lives? Write down a few sentences on sin from the heart and how it can manifest in our lives. Now write a few sentences on how carry out this memorial act of worship can help prevent inner sin in our lives.

11. The evil that follows in the lives of those who have forgotten God in Judges 9:1-10:18 is very intense. Describe the evil acts of Gideon's son Abimelech in order to gain more power. Who escaped Abimelech's attack? What was Abimelech's final end? Why did God say this happened to Abimelech? Not much is said of Dodo and Jair other than the number of years of their reigns and some minor trivia on their lives (looks like a good exam question...) Next, in chapter 10, mass idolatry results in Israel being in what situation again? Note the end of Judges 10:16, God can reach a point when He gets sick of someone. It would be sad to have that said of you or me!
12. In Judges 11, a new mighty man of valor was raised up to remove Israel from bondage again. What was his name? What were the results of his campaigns? What vow did he make that he later regretted? What lesson can this teach us about what we say? Read Matthew 5:33-37 in context of this story. What are your thoughts on what we say and promise? Do you not like this new mighty man of valor? Read Hebrews 11:32. Now what do you think?
13. What dialect test is used in Judges 12 to prevent one of the tribes from fighting with the enemies of Israel? What Judges are mentioned in this chapter?
14. The life of Sampson is covered in Judges 13:1-16:31. Why were God's people again in need of a deliverer? What vow was Sampson under from birth? Describe the points in his life where he breaks each of these vows. About what animal does Sampson make a riddle? How did he pick the animal? What was the occasion where the riddle was presented? By what unusual weapon does Sampson kill 1,000 Philistines? What seems to be Sampson's biggest weakness in his life? What does this say about our lives? Describe the events leading up to Sampson's final act of war on the Philistines.
15. **STRETCH QUESTION:** In Judges 17:1 – Judges 21:25, a common theme begins to develop in the hearts of the Children of Israel. From 17:6, "...every man did that which was right in his own eyes." Name some of the sinful things in this section of scripture to which his way of thinking led. Note in chapter 19, to what story does this seem to be similar during the time of Abraham? Look at the list of sins that you listed that were happening in this time that man was doing as they pleased. What is the prevailing why of thinking today? What choices could this way of thinking bring about? Note: From Dan to Beersheba is a common term used to represent the whole of the Nation of Israel during the combined Kingdom years. Why is the story of Laish in Judges 18 so significant to this common phrase?
16. Hannah mother of Samuel is a wonderful example of a woman who loves God and her Children. What is Hannah's promise? When she made this promise in the tabernacle while intensely praying what did Eli think of her at first? How did Hannah continue to care for Samuel even after he entered into his time of service?
17. Eli had two sons. What was their nature? What external actions did you read about that demonstrates the nature of these men? What does that say about Eli? Read 1 Samuel 3:8. Was Eli a good mentor to Samuel? This is a story where flawed people can have positive influence on people. What was the final fate of Eli and his sons?
18. Samuel first "spoke to God" on what occasion? Samuel reluctantly shared this first information from God with someone. To whom did he reveal this information and why was he reluctant to do so?
19. Who is the enemy that Samuel is leading the Children of Israel against once he becomes the Judge of Israel? It is possible that this indicates Sampson, Eli, and Samuel could have an overlapping timeline. How long and where does it say Samuel Judges Israel?