



Judges

in our own eyes

UNIT 2 STUDY GUIDE
JULY - AUGUST 2023

Judges

JUDGES 8 | July 23, 2023

Read Judges 8:1-3.

What do you think of the Ephraimites' attitudes? (See also Judges 12:1-6)

Read Judges 8:4-21.

How many were with Gideon for this attack? (v. 4) How many men were they going up against? (v.10)

Should the people of Succoth and Penuel have helped Gideon and his men?

Was Gideon right in threatening them and then punishing them? Why or why not?

Read Judges 8:22-28.

What is an "ephod"? (See v. 27, Exodus 28:2-4; 6-14)

What kind of idols becomes a snare to families today?

Read and discuss 2 Timothy 4:7 and Acts 20:24.

What would you like people to say about your life and legacy?

Read Judges 8:29-35.

Why did the Israelites forget God so quickly after Gideon's death, after all that was done for them? (Judges 8:34-35)

Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person to guard their life and to finish well.

Judges

JUDGES 9 | July 30, 2023

Read Judges 9:1-21.

Who was Abimelech? What was his relationship to Gideon? What was his plan? (Judges 9:1-2)

How is Abimelech's true character first revealed in verses 4-5? (Judges 9:4-5) What application can be made to our lives regarding the kind of people we surround ourselves with?

In Jotham's parable, what three trees/vine refused to rule over the other trees? What reason did they give why they would not rule? (Judges 9:8-15)

What did Jotham's parable mean? (Judges 9:16-20) Where in your life is God calling you to be bold and to speak out against wickedness?

Read Judges 9:22-41.

What is Gaal's plan? What kind of a person/leader was he? (Judges 9:26-29)

Who is Zebul? Did he agree with Gaal? What methods did Zebul use to induce the fighting? (Judges 9:30-38)

Read Judges 9:42-57.

What correlation do we see between Jotham's curse (see v. 20) and the final interaction with Abimelech and the people of Shechem? (Judges 9:46-53)

How did Abimelech finally die? (Judges 9:53-54)

Sooner or later God repays wickedness. What does that truth do to your faith and your actions?

Close your time in prayer asking the Lord to give the strength and the courage to stand against the sinfulness that surrounds us.

Judges

JUDGES 10-11 | August 6, 2023

Read Judges 10:1-5.

What interesting fact about Jair's sons was included in Judges 10:4?

Read Judges 10:6-17.

We have seen the cycle of sin repeated a number of times now in the book of Judges. Why do you think the author of Judges repeats it so often?

Read Judges 11:1-11.

What do we learn about Jephthah's upbringing? How might that have affected him?

Why might Jephthah have hesitated in accepting the offer of the elders?

Read Judges 11:12-28.

What historical examples did Jephthah use to make his point to the king? (see Judges 11:14-26)

Read Judges 11:29-40.

What vow did Jephthah make? (Judges 11:30-31) Why do you think Jephthah would make a vow like this?

How seriously were vows viewed in the Old Testament? (See Numbers 30:2)

What are we to make of this account since human sacrifice is a sin? (See Deut. 12:31, Psalm 106:38)

Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person to avoid temptation and thanking Him for His faithfulness to all His promises.

Judges

JUDGES 12 | August 13, 2023

Read Judge 12:1-7.

What criticism did the men of Ephraim raise against Jephthah, and what explanation did Jephthah give for what he had done? (Judges 12:1-3)

Compare verses 1-3 of chapter 12 with Judges 8:1-3. What pattern do we see among the Ephraimites?

How do Jephthah and Gideon differ in the way that they respond to the Ephraimites?

What test did the men of Gilead give at the river crossing to determine whether a man was from Ephraim? (Judges 12:5-6)

We learn of Jephthah's death in this chapter. How many years was he a judge? (Judges 12:7)

Read Judges 12:8-15.

What may be some reasons that we know so little about the judges in verses 8-15?

If you were one of these three judges, would you be disappointed that there was not more written about your life? What would you like to be said about your life after you have passed away?

Close your time in prayer asking the Lord to use each person's life to bring the maximum glory to Himself.

Judges

JUDGES 13-14 | August 20, 2023

Read Judge 13:1-24.

What familiar phrase does verse 1 open with? (Judges 13:1)

Noting the different times that we have seen the angel of the LORD, who is it that is appearing to this woman?

What special rules was Samson's mother to follow, and what reason was given why she should do so? (Judges 13:3-5)

What questions did Manoah ask the angel of the LORD in verses 11-12? (Judges 13:11-12, 17)

What does the angel of the LORD reply in verse 18? What do you think he means by saying this? (Judges 13:18)

What happens to the angel of the LORD in verse 20? What do Manoah and his wife discover/realize about who they were talking to? (Judges 13:20-22)

Read Judges 14:1-9.

What happened while Samson was at Timnah? (Judges 14:1)

What did Samson do upon his return, and what was his parents' response? (Judges 14:2-3)

What happened as Samson approached the vineyards of Timnah? What does this illustrate about him? (Judges 14:5-6)

What do you think about Samson taking matters into his own hands? In what areas of your life might you be trying to take more control than you probably should?

Close in prayer by asking the Lord to help each life group member to trust in God's plan for their lives.