



A Study of Judges  
The Upward Spiral of Salvation

By Bill Peacock

A Sixteen Week Bible Study Developed Using  
*Judges: Such a Great Salvation* by Dale Ralph Davis as a Primary Resource



*Excellent Thought*  
*Faith, Policy, and Culture*



## Judges Study – Lesson 01

### Judges 1:1 – 2:5

Day 1: Read Judges 1:1-7 and Joshua 23:4-5.

1. What are the people of Israel doing in today's passage? How are their actions connected to work of Israel in Joshua?
2. How does the success of Israel after the death of Joshua reveal God's faithfulness to the people of Israel? How are they encouraged and what are they taught to do through this success?
3. How can we apply this lesson to our lives today?

Day 2: Read Judges 1:1-21

4. How does God use the unity of Israel to give them success?
5. How do Judah and Simeon demonstrate their obedience to God in their conquests?

Day 3: Read Judges 1:4-7, 11-15, and 22-26.

6. Describe what takes place in each of these passages? How does God work through individuals to carry out His will?
7. How do these stories encourage you about God's faithfulness and power?

Day 4: Read Judges 1:22-36 and Joshua 23:6-13

1. How are the outcomes of battles of the northern tribes different from those of Judah and Simeon? Were the battles for the most part outwardly successful? Spiritually?
2. Why was it important to eliminate the Canaanites?
3. Why do you think the outcomes of most of these battles turned out differently than the battles in the south?
4. What warnings do the immediate outward successes but spiritual failures in these battles provide us for our own lives?

Day 5: Read Judges 2:1-5

5. How does God respond to the actions of the Israelites in chapter 1?
6. What reaction did Israel have to the rebuke of the Lord?
7. Did the weeping and sacrificing of Israel produce genuine repentance?

## Judges Study – Lesson 2

Judges 2:6 – 3:6

Day 1: Read Judges 2:6-13 and Judges 2:1-2.

1. How are we to understand Joshua 2:7 in light of 2:1-2? Was the generation of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him completely faithful to the Lord? What was their disobedience?
2. Describe the disobedience of the next generation “who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.”
3. Read 1 Samuel 2:12. Did the next generation of Israelites not know the Lord because they had not been told of Him or His great works, or did they know *of* Him, but had simply chosen like Eli’s sons to disregard him and not be in relationship with him? Explain your answer.

Day 2: Re-read Judges 2:6-13 and read Psalm 106:34-39.

4. How is the sin of Israel described in Psalm 106? What did it fail to do?
5. Even knowing all that God has done for us, how might we, like the Israelites, be tempted by the idols and lifestyle of the “Canaanites” around us today? What can we do to resist the temptation and truly know He “who led us in the wilderness?” See Romans 12:1-3.

Day 3: Read Judges 2:14-18

6. How do we see the faithfulness of God in His anger that was kindled against the Israelites?
7. How can we explain the amazing fact that God both “sold [Israel] into the hand of their surrounding enemies” and “raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.”

Day 4: Read Judges 2:19-3:6

8. God left the Canaanites in the land as a test for Israel. How did Israel do?

9. Did God’s mercy upon Israel in their “groaning” lead to their repentance?

10. The slavery of sin is a key theme in Judges. How do we see it played out in today’s passage?

Day 5: Re-read Judges 2:19-3:6 and read Ephesians 2:1-13.

11. Despite our own history as slaves who are “children of wrath, like the rest of mankind” who were “dead in [our] trespasses and sin,” why do we still have hope?

Judges Study – Lesson 3  
Judges 3:7-31

Day 1: Read Judges 3:7-11.

1. Who did the people serve in v. 7? In v. 8? What happened in between the two instances where Israel's 'service' is noted?
2. Was there simply a natural cause and effect between Israel's service to the Baals and to Cushan-rishathaim or was this a case of divine intervention? Why is the answer to this question important for us to remember?
3. How is God's wrath against Israel here, and similarly His discipline of us when we have sinned, a sign of hope for God's covenant people?

Day 2: Re-read Judges 3:7-11, along with Judges 3:12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; & 13:1.

4. Does it appear that Israel's cries for help are also signs of repentance, or simply cries of misery? Explain.
5. Whether in response to His people's repentance or misery, how is God's power and goodness shown in the story of Othniel?

Day 3: Read Judges 3:12-30.

6. How might the story of Ehud be uncomfortable to the modern, or unbelieving, reader?

7. An ancient Israelite would have viewed this story quite differently. Describe the Israelite's viewpoint.

Day 4: Re-read Judges 3:13-20.

8. Who is Ehud? What is Ehud's purpose in the story? Who is he doing it for? Who has tasked him to do this? What is the general theme of this story?

9. Read Judges 4:1. Alongside the mercy and goodness of God displayed, what is the tragedy of this story? Is this ultimately a story of hope or tragedy?

Day 5: Read Judges 3:31.

10. What does Scripture tell us about Shamgar?

11. How is he like the other judges?

12. How does what we know and not know about Shamgar bring glory to God?



Judges Study – Lesson 4  
Judges 4

Day 1: Read Judges 4.

1. In verses 1-3, the people of Israel are referenced four times. What do you learn about them?
2. What is the great need of the people of Israel in these verses?
3. Read 1 John 2: 3-6. The people of Israel failed to live out their calling as a holy people in the absence of external pressure or support. How does this apply to your life today?

Day 2: Read Judges 4:6-23.

4. Who is the source of Israel's salvation? List the passages where God's role as the Savior of Israel is clear, and explain why you chose each one.

Day 3: Read Judges 4:11 and 1:16

5. Where had the Kenites originally settled?
6. Why is v. 11 an important part of the story? What do you learn from this about God's preparation of the details of society and your life today?

Day 4: Read Judges 4:17-22.

7. List all of the things Jael did that might be seen as objectionable by some.

8. What do you think of Jael's actions?

9. Read Judges 5:23-27. What does Deborah say about Jael? How does her performance stand in contrast to Barak and the town of Meroz.

Day 5: Read Judges 4:1-3 and 23-24.

10. Along with the people of Israel, in vv. 23-24 it is King Jabin who is referenced multiple times. What happens to the king?

11. How is Israel's situation different in vv. 23-24 than in vv. 1-3?

12. What and/or who made the difference?

Judges Study – Lesson 5  
Judges 5

Day 1: Read Judges 5.

1. How is the coming of the Lord described in vv. 4-5? How is God portrayed?
2. How is Israel portrayed in vv. 6-8? What is its plight?
3. What do you learn from the contrast of the Lord and Israel in these verses?

Day 2: Read Judges 5:11d-23.

4. Which tribes/cities assisted in the battle against Sisera? Which did not? How are each portrayed?
5. What do you learn here about how God's people are to participate in His great works? See Luke 14:15-24.

Day 3: Read Judges 5:24-30

6. Why is Jael blessed?

7. Why do you think the killing of Sisera is described in such detail?

8. The mother of Sisera is mocked in these verses. Why? How does the contrast with Jael glorify God?

Day 4: Read Judges 5:31.

9. What is the prayer in this verse? To what part of the Lord's prayer does it relate?

10. What is Deborah praying for here and what do we pray for when we similarly pray? See 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10.

Day 5: Read Judges 5:31.

11. There is a call to Israel—and to us—in the verse as His “friends,” or as those “who love Him.” How are they to respond? See Deuteronomy 6:5-6; and John 14:15.

12. Deborah's song is being sung to the Israel of the period of the Judges (see vv. 3:7; 3:12; and 4:1). How might the contrast between the prayer about God's enemies (v. 31a) and the call for God's friends (v. 31b) remind Israel of the consequences of the choices they make? See Psalm 1.

13. When you are struggling with repentance, how can you answer the call to “be like the sun as he rises in his might?”

Judges Study – Lesson 6  
Judges 6

Day 1: Read Judges 6.

1. When the “people of Israel [again] cried out for help to the Lord, what was His immediate response?
2. What did the prophet say to Israel in vv. 7-10? How do we see the kindness and mercy of God in His response to Israel by sending the prophet?
3. Describe a time when God’s immediate response to your prayers was not what you wanted yet exhibited His mercy and kindness.

Day 2: Read Judges 6:8-11; Jeremiah 11:9-11; and Jeremiah 25:1-11.

4. When a prophet is sent to Israel and accuses it of unfaithfulness, what often does the prophet declare next? See the passages in Jeremiah.
5. How does God treat the situation in Judges differently than in the passages from Jeremiah? What characteristics does God display here? What comfort can you find in this? See Exodus 34:6-7.

Day 3: Read Judges 6:11-24.

6. What promise or commitment does God make to Gideon through the angel of the Lord?

7. How did Gideon respond? What did he say were the causes of his doubts?
8. Because of his doubts, Gideon sought, and received, God's assurance. What was Gideon's response to this assurance? Why did he respond this way? List similar responses of God's people following an encounter with Him?

Day 4: Read Judges 6:25-32.

9. What demand did God make of Gideon? Why would He require Gideon to both pull down one altar and build another? See Matthew 6:19-24.

10. What parts of your life that divide your worship of God do you need to tear down?

11. Was there anything wrong with Gideon tearing down the altar at night? Why or why not?

Day 5: Read Judges 6:33-40.

12. Gideon needed more assurance before leading the Israelites to war. What does God's continued provision of assurance tell us about Him?

13. Does Gideon's constant need for reassurance mean that he was faithfully hesitant, or unbelieving? See the last phrases of vv. 36, 37.

Judges Study – Lesson 7  
Judges 7:1 – 8:32

Day 1: Read Judges 7:1-8

1. Why does God insist on weakening the army of Israel? Cite a verse to support your answer?
2. Read Judges 7:16-22. How is Israel's weakness also seen in these verses?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. What do you learn about man's weakness and God's power here? Why is it necessary that we both know and display our weakness?

Day 2: Read Judges 7:9-15.

4. How is Gideon's weakness further on display here? Why do you think Gideon needs assurance?
5. How does God deal with Gideon's weakness here? How does His dealing with Gideon comfort you?

Day 3: Read Judges 7:24-8:21.

6. There is a different kind of weakness on display in these verses. List the occurrences. What are the causes of the weakness displayed?
7. How is this weakness different from that in the previous readings in Judges 7?

Day 4: Read Judges 8:22-32.

8. While Gideon seemed to reject the call for him and his sons to rule over Israel, what evidence is there that he didn't do so completely? Also see Judges 9. (Hint: Abimelech means "My father is King.")
9. What evidence is there that Israel continued to look for someone to rule over them other than the Lord?

Day 5: Read Judges 8:22-32.

10. What is an ephod? What is it used for? Who is it used by? See Exodus 28 and 1 Samuel 23:9-12.
11. Did Gideon seek to usurp the role of the priests with his ephod? Meanwhile, where were the priests and their ephod during this period?
12. During the life of Gideon is the last time that Judges tells us the land had rest. Why does Israel begin to lose the privilege of rest?
13. What do you learn from this passage about how, unlike Gideon and Israel, to end well?



## Judges Study – Lesson 8

Judges 8:33 – 9:57

Day 1: Read Judges 8:33-35.

1. What does the passage mean when it says that “the people of Israel did not remember the Lord their God?”
2. How did the people also forget Gideon?
3. Why do you think the people forgot God and Gideon? What replaced these memories?

Day 2: Read Judges 9:1-6.

4. What were some of the characteristics of the judges of Israel that God had lifted up? Cite some passages supporting your answer.
5. How is Abimelech different from the judges that God had previously lifted up? What is different about how he became a leader?
6. How did Gideon contribute to the problem of Abimelech?

Day 3: Read Judges 9:7-21

7. Why did the olive tree, the fig tree, and the vine reject kingship?

8. What do we learn about the people of Israel from the selection of the bramble and Abimelech as kings?
9. What do we learn from these passages and Abimelech about people who seek to become political leaders? Can we apply these lessons today?

Day 4: Read Judges 9:7-21, 1 Samuel 8, and John 5:30-47.

10. What do these passages instruct us about our hearts and where we are to seek authority in our lives? How do you struggle in this area?
11. How might we apply the passages and the kingship of Abimelech to Israel and to America today and our selection of leaders? What desires often lead the people in their selection of leaders?
12. What form of government might we see as biblical for the world today based on these passages?

Day 5: Read Judges 9:22-57

13. How is the decline of order early in this passage a harbinger of the judgment to come?
14. How does Abimelech's rage lead to his death? How is Abimelech's death similar to the death of one of Israel's enemies earlier in Judges?
15. What verses in this passage make it clear that the judgment of God is at work in this story? How do we witness God's faithfulness in this judgment?

Judges Study – Lesson 9  
Judges 10:1-16

Day 1: Read Judges 10:1-5

1. Why are Tola and Jair called minor judges?
2. In what way does Tola's judgeship seem to be on par with previous judges?
3. How is Tola a hint of Yahweh's goodness?

Day 2: Read Judges 10:1-5

4. What appears to be one of the problems with Jair's judging? How does his judgeship compare to Gideon's?
5. Is there rest during the time of Jair?

Day 3: Read Judges 10:6-16.

6. Compare Judges 10:6 with Judges 8:33, 6:1, 4:1, 3:12, 3:7, and 2:11-13. Does the depth of Israel's unfaithfulness seem to have increased? Explain.

7. What is God's response in vv. 7-9 to the apostasy of Israel?

Day 4: Read Judges 10:6-16.

8. How do we see in Israel's constant turning away from the Lord in good times and returning to Him during bad a flawed understanding of who God is and what He requires of us?

9. How do you struggle with this in your own life?

Day 5: Read Judges 10:6-16.

10. How does God respond to Israel's cry for help?

11. Is this response any less a possibility under the New Covenant than it was under the Old Covenant? See Acts 8:9-24.

12. When God becomes "impatient over the misery of Israel" in v. 16, do you think this is because they have repented or simply because of His love for His people? In other words, do God's acts of salvation have anything to do with our response to Him? What does God's kindness have to do with this? Explain.

Judges Study – Lesson 10  
Judges 10:17 – 12:15

Day 1: Read Judges 10:6 – 11:11.

1. The relationships of Israel and God in chapter 10 and Jephthah and Gilead in chapter 11 are laid out in parallel. Describe the similarities in the table below:

Israel and God	Jephthah and Gilead	Similarity
10:6	11:1-3	
10:7-9	11:4	
10:10	11:5-6	
10:11-14	11:7	
10:15-16a	11:8	
10:16b	11:9-11	

Day 2: Read Judges 11:12-28 and Psalm 136.

2. What arguments does Jephthah use as he tells the king of the Ammonites there should be no dispute between them?
3. Even though the king of the Ammonites would not listen to Jephthah, what in and about this story should cause us to listen closely and be grateful?

Day 3: Read Judges 11:29-40.

4. Reread Judges 11:1-11. In what significant way is Jephthah like Jesus?

5. How does God deliver Israel through Jephthah?

6. In what significant way is Jephthah not like Jesus. In other words, how does Jephthah the deliverer mar the work of God the Deliverer?

Day 4: Read Judges Judges 12:1-7.

7. Is there rest in Israel after they are delivered from the Ammonites? Why or why not?

8. What appears to be happening to Israel in their cycle of rebellion and repentance?

Day 5: Read Judges 12:8-15.

1. God provides little detail about the life of these judges. We are provided, though, with information about the number of children of two of the judges (as well as the number of children of some of the other recent judges), the length of time the judges judged Israel (as opposed to previous episodes where we learned how long Israel was oppressed and how long the land had rest), and the death and burial of the judges. What do you learn from this information, or the lack thereof?

2. What hope did Israel ultimately find in its judges? Where did this ultimately point them? Where does it ultimately point you? How can this help you today?

Judges Study – Lesson 11  
Judges 13

Day 1: Read Judges 13:1-7.

1. In vv. 1-2, we have a sequence of 1) Israel's apostasy, 2) Yahweh's judgment, and 3) the beginning of the story of God's deliverance. What element of the sequence we have come to expect (3:9, 15; 4:3; 6:6-7; 10:10) is missing? What do we learn from this omission about the people, about God, and about our need for Him?
2. What do we know about Samson's mother? How does this help demonstrate how our salvation lies completely in God's hands?

Day 2: Read Judges 13:8-9 and Psalm 5:1-2; 28:1-2; and 65:1-2.

3. What are we to think, how are we to respond, when we read a phrase like, "God listened to the voice of Manoah?"
4. What do we learn about prayer from this passage?

Day 3: Read Judges 13:9-18.

5. Manoah asks several questions of the Angel of Yahweh. What is the Angel's response?
6. What does the Angel mean when He asserts that His name is "wonderful?" See Psalm 139:6.

7. How are we to respond to the “wonderfulness” of God and the limits He imposes on us?

Day 4: Read Judges 13:19-23.

8. What is God’s wonderful response to the grain offering?

9. What is the response of Manoah and his wife to the events here?

10. How are we today to see God’s presence as both a source of fear and joy? Refer to some New Testament Scripture to support your response.

Day 5: Read Judges 13:24-25.

11. How does the story about Sampson’s ‘savior’ beginnings differ from that of other ‘saviors’ in Judges?

12. Why might God have provided us the information He does about Sampson’s beginnings?

13. How is the information we have about Sampson’s beginnings and childhood similar to what we know about Christ? What are we to learn from this similarity?



Judges Study – Lesson 12  
Judges 14

Day 1: Read Judges 14.

1. There are four different secrets (vv. 1-4, 5-6, 7-9, & 10-18) in Judges 14. What are they?
2. What appears to be Samson's reason for wanting a Philistine wife? How do his parents react?
3. Read Genesis 50:15-21. How might God's secret in vv. 1-4 be a comfort to both Samson and his parents?
4. How might God's secret purposes be a comfort for you when you face adversity or the consequences of your sin?

Day 2: Read Judges 14:5-6.

5. What is the source of Samson's strength?
6. How is lion episode a preview of what is to come later in chapter 14?
7. Have you had any previews of God's strength in your life? What were they? How might God's previews of salvation in your life prepare you to rely on Him in greater trials that lie ahead?

Day 3: Read Judges 14:8-9.

8. Read Numbers 6:1-8. How might Samson on first reading have compromised his Nazirite status by collecting and eating the honey?

9. Read Judges 13:3-7 and 16:19. What appears to be the only Nazirite requirement for Samson?

Day 4: Read Judges 14:10-18.

10. How does Samson display his weakness in this story? How is it a preview of things to come?

11. Read Matthew 26:31-43. How might the awareness of your weaknesses help protect you and keep you safe in times of trial and temptation?

Day 5: Read Judges 14:19-20.

12. God's secret from vv. 1-4 is now revealed to a broader audience. Is it Samson's anger or God's spirit that reveals the secret and brings trouble in Ashkelon?

13. How does this episode begin the deliverance of Israel from the Philistines?

14. How does this episode help you look for small deliverances from God in your life?

Judges Study – Lesson 13  
Judges 15

Day 1: Skim Judges 14:5 – 16:30.

1. In his commentary on Judges, Dale Ralph David divides these chapters of Judges “into six main episodes. Each episode is structured around these two basic elements: a Philistine success followed by a Samson disaster.” In other words, the Philistines come up with what they think is a solution to a problem related to Samson. But then Samson comes along with his own solution that messes up their solution and instead brings failure and disaster upon the Philistines. Please fill in the chart below outlining this pattern:

Episode	Philistine Solution	Philistine Failure/Samson Solution
14:5-20	Answer to riddle	Slaughter at Ashkelon
15:1-6a		
15:6b-8		
15:9-17		
16:1-3		
16:4-30		
Sub 16:6-9		
Sub 16:10-12		
Sub 16:13-14		
Sub 16:15-21		

Day 2: Read Judges 15.

2. What is God showing us through the repeated failure of the Philistines’ plans?

3. Do you see any humor in the telling of the failings of the Philistines? Explain.

Day 3: Read Judges 15:1-8.

4. What wrong is committed against Samson? How does he react to it?

5. Read Matthew 6:7-14. God may have been using Samson to “seek an opportunity against the Philistines,” but this does not absolve Samson of his sinfulness. What appears to be Samson’s motivation for his actions? What might have motivated him instead?

Day 4: Read Judges 5:9-13.

6. What is the response of the men of Judah to Samson’s actions against the Philistines?

7. Read Judges 1:1-20. What has changed about Judah? What were they motivated by before? What is their motivation now?

Day 5: Read Judges 15:14-20.

8. It has previously been made clear to the reader of Judges that Samson is dependent upon the Lord. What is different about this acknowledgement in today’s reading? Hint: who is acknowledging this in this passage?

9. How do you struggle with acknowledging God’s provision for you and your dependence on Him, and in turning to Him to provide for all your needs?

10. List a couple of biblical examples of where God provided for His people’s needs, whether they were big or small. Do you have an example from your own life?

Judges Study – Lesson 14  
Judges 16

Day 1: Read Judges 16.

1. There is a loose parallel between chapters 14-15 and chapter 16. Use the table below to describe this:

Verses	Chapters 14-15	Chapter 16
14:1 16:1		
14:15-18 16:4-20		
15:9-13 16:21		
15:14-17 16:30b		
15:18-19 16:28-30a		
15:20 16:31b		

2. There is also a contrast between Chaps. 14-15 and Chap. 16, particularly 16:1-21. Who is present with Samson several times in Chaps. 14-15 (see vv. 14:6; 19; 15:14) that is not present in 16:1-21?

Day 2: Read Judges 16:1-21.

3. For years Samson had seemed to seek his own pleasure rather than serve God's will. Yet God continually rescued him by sending His Spirit upon him. What is different in these verses? What is the key verse here that highlights the difference?
4. How is Samson like Israel? What would Israel learn by reading this story?

Day 3: Read Judges 16:22-31.

5. Throughout the story of Samson we've seen the Philistines oppose God, despite disaster after disaster. Some might call this stupidity, others insanity. List the actions of the Philistines in today's passage that highlight their opposition to God and their stupidity in doing so.

6. How does Samson's failure/shame bring shame/humiliation to God?

7. How does God react to this? How should we?

Day 4: Read Judges 16:22-31.

8. Think back to the similarity of the structures on Caps. 14-15 and Chap. 16. Amidst all of Samson's selfish actions, what two instances stand out in contrast to these?

9. Describe Samson's situation as he lifts up his prayers in 16:28-30.

10. What might the readers of this story in ancient Israel, and also we today, learn from God's response to Samson's prayers?

Day 5: Read Judges 16:1-17.

11. Describe Samson's character.

12. Why does God choose men like Samson to be His servants?

13. Thinking of Samson in contrast with the "mighty" men of Judah in Judges 15:9-13, what one characteristic of Samson served him, and thus God, well?

Judges Study – Lesson 15  
Judges 17-18

Day 1: Read Judges 17:1-6.

1. What elements are missing here compared with the beginnings of most other stories in Judges?
2. If seen as representative of the nation, what does the reader learn about the spiritual condition of Israel in this passage?
3. What is the writer trying to convey when he writes, “In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Day 2: Read Judges 17:1-13.

4. What elements in this story might lead Micah to say, “Now I know that the LORD will prosper me, because I have a Levite as priest.”
5. Looking to Judges 18, is Micah’s prophesy right or wrong? Explain how Micah should have known better than to think the events were going to bring him blessings.

Day 3: Read Judges 18.

6. What elements in this story might lead the people of Dan to also believe “that the LORD will prosper me?”

7. If seen as representative of the nation, what does the reader learn about the spiritual condition of Israel in this passage?

Day 4: Review Judges 17-18.

8. List some examples of false religion in these chapters.

9. Read Judges 17:2-6, 18:1 and Deuteronomy 27:15. How is the judgment of God on the false religion of His people different from the judgment of Micah's mother?

10. What is suggested in 17:6 and 18:1 as the source of the false religion of Israel? Who might the antidote be?

Day 5: Review Judges 17-18.

11. How does 18:24 highlight the stupidity of false religion? See also Jeremiah 10:5.

12. How does 18:27-31 highlight the tragedy of false religion? Consider the elements that are missing from the end of this story compared to the standard endings of most stories in Judges.

13. List two or three passages from the Bible that depict the problems that come from false worship.



Judges Study – Lesson 16  
Judges 19 - 21

Day 1: Read Judges 19 – 21.

1. Express the theme of each chapter using a short phrase.
2. Gibeah is the New Sodom. How is the story of Gibeah in Judges 19 similar to the story of Sodom (see Genesis 19)? How is it different?
3. What are the signs of depravity of both Gibeah and Israel in Judges 19? Are there any signs of how Israel is better in contrast with Gibeah? If so, what are they?

Day 2: Read Judges 19 and Hosea 9:9 and 10:9.

4. Hosea casts judgment upon Israel in the “days of Gibeah.” As did the author of Judges when he wrote, “there was no king in Israel. Everyone (or each man) did what was right in his own eyes.” Who was, in this context, “each man?” What were his responsibilities? List verses from the Old Testament to support your answer.
5. What was “everyone” doing wrong? What was at the root of the sins of “each man” in Israel as he acted as if there was no King and “did what was right in his own eyes?”

Day 3: Read Judges 20.

6. Describe Israel’s response to the actions of Gibeah. What does the author tell us about its unity?

7. How does the unity of Israel against Gibeah and Benjamin contrast to the unity we sometimes saw in Joshua? What does this tell us about the state of Israel at this time? And about what brought them to this state?
8. Israel suffered two setbacks against Benjamin before finally prevailing. Dale Ralph Davis poses two potential ways of understanding this: either God is also acting in judgment against Israel, or we are simply seeing the mysteriousness of God's ways as His people often see their "path marked more by trouble than success." Which do you think it might be? Why?
9. The people of Benjamin were the people of God, yet God's judgment fell heavily upon them. Can this also happen to Christians today? See Mark 4:24-25 and Romans 1:24-28. How should you respond to this in your own life?

Day 4: Read Judges 21.

10. What change of heart does Israel have in regard to Benjamin? What ethical dilemma does this put this in?
11. What was right about Israel's initial response to Benjamin in Judges 20? What was wrong? How do we see the spiritual depravity of Israel in this episode?

Day 5: Read Judges 21.

12. What is different between the final judgments against Sodom and against Benjamin? How do we see God's grace in this?
13. Is Israel also in need of God's grace? Does not it, like Benjamin and Sodom, also deserve to be wiped out? Despite the judgment of v. 25 upon Israel, how can we see the end of Judges and the survival of Israel as a miracle and an example of God's grace upon His people?



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