

THE LATER JUDGES

Judges 9 - 21

Following the days of Gideon, a number of other men judged Israel. Read the following to learn what kind of men they were, and what feats they performed for Israel:

A. The Judges Following Gideon: Judges 9-12

1. What man tried to judge Israel without being called of God? Judges 9:1, 8:35

2. What eventually happened to this man? Judges 9:53

3. List the names of the next six judges, and one interesting fact about each:

- a. Judges 10:1 _____

- b. Judges 10:3 _____

- c. Judges 11:1, 31, 34, 35 _____

- d. Judges 12:8 _____

- e. Judges 12:11 _____

- f. Judges 12:13 _____

B. Samson, the Fourteenth Judge: Read Judges 13-16

1. What kind of person was Samson to be? Judges 13:5a; Numbers 6:1-8

2. Before Samson was even born, what did God say was to be his life's work? Judges 13:5b

3. How were Samson's parents prepared for the birth of this child? Judges 13:8-23

4. For what outstanding characteristic was Samson noted? (*THINK!*)

5. List briefly three great examples of this characteristic:

- a. Judges 14:5, 6 _____

- b. Judges 15:13, 14 _____

- c. Judges 16:3 _____

6. What was the real secret of Samson's strength? Judges 13:25, 14:6, 15:14

7. List some things Samson did to carry out God's purpose for him:

- a. Judges 14:19 _____

- b. Judges 15:3-5 _____

- c. Judges 15:8 _____

- d. Judges 15:15 _____

- e. Judges 16:4-30 _____

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8. How was Samson's work different from that of the other judges? (*THINK!*) _____

9. What would you say was the outstanding weakness of Samson? Judges 14:1, 2, 16:1, 16:4

_____ 0. Contrast Samson with great leaders of Israel in former years-- Abraham, Moses, and Joshua. Do you think God was pleased with Samson's personal life?

11. Do you think Samson's sin in any way affected his service for God?

C. Summary of the Times of the Judges: Judges 17-21

1. What was the rule of life for Samson and for those who lived after his day? Judges 17:6b, 21:25b

2. Notice some of the terrible things which took place as people practiced this rule: Judges 17-21

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is it always sufficient to "let your conscience be your guide"? Why? (See 1 Timothy 4:2b; Hebrews 10:22)

2. What do I need besides my conscience to guide me? (See Psalm 119:9, 11)