

THE FIRST JUDGES OF ISRAEL

Introduction: God's sovereign will allows people to freely choose His way or their own way. This is what He did with angels in Heaven. He loves all people and wants them to choose His way to be saved (1 Tim 2:4), but He will not force His will on them. That would not be love on His part, nor would it produce love on their part. Love must be free on the part of both, like it is in marriage. Joshua and his leader loved God and chose His way. They were blessed with power to conquer their enemies. The next generation of Israelites chose their way and worshipped idols. They were cursed and were ruled by their enemies. When they repented of their sin and turned to Him, God raised up a judge to save them from their enemies. In this lesson He raised up three judges: Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar.

Lesson Aim: Shun the sinful curses of Israel and to seek the salvation blessings of Christ.

Memory Verse: "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shines more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble" (Proverbs 4:18-19).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer:**I. Vices of the Nation — 1:1-3:8**

1. Where does the book of Judges fit into the history of Israel? 1:1
2. Which tribe did the LORD choose first to drive the Canaanites out of their inheritance? 1:2
3. How did Judah deal with the inhabitants living in their land? 1:4-7
4. What did Judah do to Jerusalem? 1:8
5. How did Caleb conquer Debir for Judah? 1:11-13
6. Why did Judah help Simeon drive out some inhabitants in their land? 1:17-19; see 1:3
7. What stopped the success of Judah in its warfare? 1:19
8. How did the Israelites disobey the LORD when they were strong? 1:28
9. Why did the angel of the LORD rebuke Israel? 2:1-2
10. What was the result of their disobedience? 2:3
11. Why did the new generation forsake the LORD? 2:10-12
12. Identify two sins that caused the LORD to be angry with Israel. 3:5-8
 - a.
 - b.

II. Victories of the Judges — 3:9-31

13. What do we know about Othniel, the first judge of Israel? 1:12-13; 3:9-11
14. How was Ehud able to come into the presence of Eglon, the king of Moab? 3:15-18
15. How did Ehud deliver Israel from the wicked rule of Eglon?
3:19-26 -
3:27-30 -
16. How did Shamgar deliver Israel from the Philistines? 3:31

