

## Judges 1.

These were no small skirmishes. But when Israel enquired of the Lord, He was with them to deliver them. But soon *they did evil* and God would send an enemy against them so then deliverance came and they were okay for a few years and again *they did evil* (worshipping other gods and bowing down to wood, stone, groves, sun, moon, stars) but God was in the JUDGES to help them get out of their circumstances. So where is Jesus in these pictures of evil and deliverance, evil and deliverance, evil and deliverance: it is a type of picture that Jesus came to fulfil. The devil was annihilated, once and for all, by THE DELIVERER, the Messiah, Jesus! At the same time the Seed of Abraham was protected. Read Galatians.

**Mesopotamia:** Judge Othniel

**Moab:** Judges Ehud and Shamgar

**Jaban and Sisera:** Judges Deborah and Barak

**Midian:** Judge Gideon

**The Civil War:** Judges Abimelech, Tola and Jair

**Philistines and Ammon:** Judges Jephtha, Ibzan, Elon and Abdon.

**Philistines:** Judge Samson

Then there was a period of confusion and anarchy.

Read the chapter. The children of Israel, Caleb (no Moses and no Joshua anymore) asked the Lord *Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?* Judah and Simeon (his brother) tribes went against the Canaanites and God delivered them into their hands. Previously Adoni-bezek fought 70 kings, and he always had their thumbs and toes cut off. Judah and Simeon did the same thing to Adoni-bezek. They brought him to Jerusalem where he died. Judah burned Jerusalem; then he went after the Canaanites in Hebron and he killed three rulers. He went to Kirjath-sepher and Caleb said *He that smites Kirjath-sepher, and takes it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter.* Othniel, the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it and he gave him Achsah his daughter to wife. Achsah asked her dad, Caleb, for a piece of field *Give me a blessing: for you have given me a south land; give me also springs of water. And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the nether springs.*

The Kenite, children of Moses father-in-law went and dwelt in the wilderness of Judah which is south of Arad. Judah and Simeon, his brother, came and slew the Canaanites that dwelt in Zephath and destroyed it. The city was called Hormah. The Lord was with Judah and he drove out the inhabitants of the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron. Caleb got Hebron and he expelled the three sons of Anak (giants).

Benjamin tribe did not drive out the Jebusites in Jerusalem. House of Joseph went up against Bethel and the Lord was with them. A man showed them how to get into the city and his life and his family was spared while Bethel (Luz) was destroyed. The man, nameless, went into the land of the Hittites and built a city and called that city Luz.

Neither did Manasseh drive out Beth-shean and her towns, nor Taanach, nor Dor, nor Ibleam, nor Megiddo, but the Canaanites would dwell in that land. Against the Lord, Israel put the Canaanites to tribute, that is they taxed them, and did not utterly drive them out.

Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites in Gezer;

Neither did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, Nahalol but the Canaanites dwelt among them and became tributaries;

Neither did Asher drive out Accho, Zidon, Ahlab, Achzib, Helbah, Aphik, nor Rehob. The Asherites

dwelt among the Canaanites and Beth-shemesh and Beth-anath became tributaries to the Asherites contrary to the Lord;

The Amorites forced the tribe of Dan into the mountain and would not let them come down; And the coast of the Amorites was from the going up to Akrabbim, from the rock and upward.

Joseph made tributaries of the Amorites even though they dwelt in Joseph's land Mount Heres in Aijalon and in Shaalbim.

This is history folks! These are the Promised Lands of the children of Israel.

## **Chapter 2.**

Read the chapter. An angel of the Lord came to Bochim...*and I said I will never break my covenant with you. And you shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land, you shall throw down their altars: but you have not obeyed my voice: why have you done this?...I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you.* You will see throughout the whole bible that these inhabitants were idol worshippers and that is why God wanted them destroyed. They were full of diseases, as well as their animals, therefore God sent His chosen to destroy them. But they would not and the angel of the Lord was sent to Bochim and to all the children of Israel to relay this message. They all wept.

After Joshua died at age 110, a whole new generation grew up who did not know the Lord, like deliverance from Egypt, crossing the Red Sea, the destruction of Pharaoh's Army, the works which He had done for Israel. They did evil in the sight of the Lord and served Baalim; forsaking the God of Israel and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were around them; they bowed themselves to them, and provoked the Lord to anger. They served Baal and Ashtaroth.

The Lord was angry (*the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel*) and He delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and He sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. Everywhere the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, and they were greatly distressed. But God raised up **judges** that delivered the children of Israel from the hand of those that spoiled them. Yet they did not listen to the **judges** but went a whoring after other gods and bowed down to them and did not obey the commandments of the Lord. *God raised them up judges, then the Lord was with the judge, and delivered them...when the judge was dead, ...they corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way...have not hearkened unto my voice; I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died: that through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the Lord to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not. Therefore the Lord left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered He them into the hand of Joshua (Israel).*

## **Chapter 3.**

Read the chapter. The nations that were to prove Israel are listed here. They intermarried with their enemy; served Baalim and the groves; they were sold as slaves for eight years to Mesopotamia. But when they cried unto the Lord, He delivered them by Othniel, the son of Kenaz, Caleb's brother. He became the **Judge** and warred against King Chushan-rishathaim of Mesopotamia and won. The land had peace for 40 years and Othniel died.

Then Israel sinned against the Lord again and Moab, Ammon and Amalek came against them with the Lord's blessing because of idolatry of Israel; they cried on to the Lord and they got a deliverer Ehud, a Benjamite, who stabbed Eglon, king of Moab who was a very fat man. Ehud, the Benjamite said *I have a message from God...And he arose out of his seat. And Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the*

*dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly:...the fat closed upon the blade...* Ehud shut the door behind him and the servants could not enter but after a long while they got a key and found Eglon, the king of Moab, dead. Ehud blew a trumpet and Israel went against Moab and slew 10,000 lusty men of valour; and there escaped not a man. There was no war between them for 80 years. After that there was another deliverer, Shamgar, the son of Anath, which slew 600 men with an ox goad.

#### **Chapter 4.**

**Again, during this History of Israel, there were 14 Judges whom God raised up and whom God was with and delivered those that “cried unto the Lord” in true repentance.**

Read the chapter. Again the oppression, this time Jabin, king of Canaan had nine hundred chariots of iron and for twenty years he came against the Israelites. Judges Deborah and Barak warred against with Naphtali and Zebulun 10,000 strong, against Jabin and Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army. Sisera, the captain, went to an ally Jael (Heber the Kenite's wife, Moses' in-laws) but Jael put a mantle on him, gave him a bottle of milk and covered him. Jael took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly to him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died. That was the end of the enemy Jabin and Sisera.

#### **Chapter 5.**

Read the chapter. Deborah and Barak praised the Lord in song. Deborah reiterates the history of how the Lord delivered them ending with *So let all thine enemies perish, O Lord; but let them that love him be as the sun when he goes forth in his might. And the land had rest forty years.*

#### **Chapter 6.**

Read the chapter. Here we go again. Evil in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. Israel made themselves dens in the mountains, and caves and strong holds. The Midianites with the Amalakites would reap the crops that Israel had sown, and took all the sheep, oxen and donkeys. These enemies came upon camels. The Lord sent a prophet to the children of Israel and told them how displeased God was with them for disobeying Him. Then an angel of the Lord came to Gideon “*and said unto him, The Lord is with you, mighty man of valour.*” So this man from the tribe of Manasseh who's name was changed to Jerubbaal, was sent of the Lord to destroy the Baal altar and groves and to erect another altar to the Lord God Almighty. Gideon did it at night with ten other men and in the morning the Midianites and the Amalakites came to the valley of Jezreel. Then the ***SPIRIT OF THE LORD CAME UPON GIDEON AND HE BLEW A TRUMPET.*** Manaasah, Asher, Zebulun, Naphtali tribes came down to meet them. But Gideon was putting fleece on the ground for proof!

#### **Chapter 7.**

Read the chapter. The Lord told Gideon that 32,000 were too many. So the fearful and afraid, departed leaving 10,000. Still too many; so 300 were left. The Midians were in the valley. So now God was ready to deliver them. Gideon took Phurah, his servant and went down to the Midians and the Amalekites who were like the sand by the sea side in multitude. These two overheard the enemy saying “*I dreamed...a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian...and smote it that it fell, and overturned it...And his fellow answered...this is...sword of Gideon...into his hand has God delivered Midian...And it was so...Arise, for the Lord has delivered into your hand the host of Midian..*

So 300 men blew their trumpets (in 3 companies) and broke the pitchers that were in their hands and held the lamps in their left hand, and cried *The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.* So the enemy killed each other and others fled. Naphtali, Asher and all Manasseh, pursued the Midianites. Gideon called on Ephraim and the Ephraim tribe came against them also. Oreb and Zeeb were killed.

## **Chapter 8.**

Read the chapter. Gideon pursued Zebah and Zalmunna of Midian and slew them as well and after that they had peace for 40 years. He had 70 sons from his many wives and one son, Abimelech, from a concubine in Shechem. He died of a good old age and as soon as he was dead, the children of Israel again went after Baalim and made Baal-berith their god.

## **Chapter 9.**

Read the chapter. Abimelech, Gideon's son of the concubine, murdered all his sons (70 of them) except Jotham, the youngest son, who hid himself. So Shechem made Abimelech king. But Jotham went up Mount Gerizim and prophesied *...Now therefore, if you have done truly and sincerely, in that you have made Abimelech king, and if you have dealt well with Jerubbaal (Gideon) and his house, and have done unto him according to the desrving of his hands; (For my father fought for you, and adventured his life far, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian: And you are risen up against my father's house this day, and have slain his sons, threescore and ten persons, upon one stone, and have made Abimelech, the son of his maidservant, king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother;) If you then have dealt truly and sincerely with Jerubbaal (Gideon) and with his house this day, then rejoice ye in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you: But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech, and devour the men of Shechem, and from the house of Millo, and devour Abimelech. And Jothan ran away...*

Then three years later there was no more peace according to the prophecy of Jotham. Abimelech warred and was eventually killed by a certain women who cast a piece of a millstone upon Abimelech's head from a tower. Then his armourbearer was asked to finish the job. *And all the evil of the men of Shechem did God render upon their heads: and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal*

## **Chapter 10.**

Read the chapter. After Abimelech was dead, Tola was the next Judge from Issachar tribe and he lived in Mount Ephraim. He was a judge for 23 years and he died. Next arose Jair, a Gileadite, and he judged for 22 years. After he died the children of Israel went back to whoring after Baalim and Ashtaroth and the gods of Syria and the gods of Zidon and the gods of Moab and the gods of Ammon, and the gods of Philistines, forsaking God and did not serve Him. *The anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, so God gave them over to the Philistines and the Ammonites. The vexed Israel for 18 years, that were on the other side Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead. Then Ammonites came over Jordan against Judah and Benjamin and Ephraim so they were sore distressed. So again, the cried unto the Lord, saying, we have sinned against You, both because we have forsaken our God, and also served Baalim. But the Lord would not hear them. He reminded them how many times He had delivered them Yet you have forsaken me, and served other gods; wherefore I will deliver you no more. Go and cry unto the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation. Again, the children of Israel repented. And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the Lord: and His soul was grieved for the misery of Israel.* Now they were ready for another Judge to deliver them.

## **Chapter 11.**

Read the chapter. Jephthah, the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour but a son of an harlot. Gilead had more sons of his wife and they threw out Jephthah and he dwelt in Tob. He gathered to himself vain men who went out with him. It came to pass that Ammon made war with Israel. Israel asked Jephthah to be their captain. Jephthah said to them *If you bring me home again to fight against the children of Ammon, and the Lord deliver them before me, shall I be your head?...The Lord be witness*

*between us, if we do not so according to your words...and Jephthah uttered all his words before the Lord in Mizpeh. ...Wherefore I have not sinned against you, but you do me wrong to war against me: the Lord the Judge be judge this day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon.*

Jephthah made a vow to the Lord that if the Lord delivers Israel from Ammonites, he will offer up the sacrifice to the Lord on the altar whoever is the first to come through his door. He went to his house when God delivered them and out of the door, the first to come, was his only daughter. He rent his clothes, ...Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you are one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the Lord, and I cannot go back. She spent two months in the mountains at her request and then came back and he offered her on the altar for the vow that he had vowed.

### **Chapter 12.**

Read the chapter The men of Ephraim were upset that Jephthah did not get them to war with him and his armies against Ammon but they fought for themselves and won. *Then Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead, and fought with Ephraim: and the men of Gilead smote Ephraim, because they said, You Gileadites are fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites, and among the Manassites.* 42,000 men fell that day because they had an accent. After that Jephthah judged Israel six years. So Jephthah the Gileadite died. After him Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel. He judged Israel seven years. When Ibzan died Elon, a Zebulonite, judged Israel for ten years. After him Abdon (Ephraim territory) judged Israel eight years and he died.

### **Chapter 13.**

Read the chapter. For 40 years Philistines ruled over Israel because of their worship of Baalim. So the next judge came from a certain man of Zorah of the family of Danites whose name was Manoah. An angel appeared unto the woman *Behold now, you are barren, and bear not; but you shall conceive and bear a son...drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing;...and no razor shall come on his head...he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.* TYPE: JESUS, WHERE AN ANGEL APPEARED TO MARY TO TELL HER SHE SHALL BEAR A SON, BUT THIS TIME HE SHALL BE A NAZARENE (even today people call Jesus, the Nazarene. Manoah wanted proof what his wife told him and asked God for an angel to appear. He did and re iterated to Manoah what he said to his wife; drink no wine nor strong drink, do not eat anything unclean, and everything else that he said to his wife. Manoah wanted to make food for the angel, but the angel would not stay for that but said that Manoah can offer up a kid (lamb) to the Lord. When the fire was burning the angel ascended in the flame to heaven. Samson was born!

### **Chapter 14.**

Read the chapter. Did you wonder whether it was in God's will that certain men do crazy things until it pretty well drives the parents crazy! Samson's (the anointed one) story is like that. He was a womanizer of the Philistines (the world). **But** his father and his mother knew not that it was of the Lord, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: *for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.* Then Samson would play games with the woman of the Philistines that became his wife. Riddles. She tricked him and she told the Philistines the answer to the riddle; not just one. But Samson was furious *And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, (Samson) and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house. But Samson's wife was given to his companion, whom he had used as a friend.*

## Chapter 15.

Read the chapter. Samson finds out that his father had given his wife to another, Samson's friend. The anger was seething. *And Samson went and caught 300 foxes, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails.* He set the firebrands on fire, let the foxes into the Philistine cornfields and burned up both the shocks and also the standing corn with the vineyards and the olives. The Philistines in revenge burned up Samson's wife and her father with fire. Samson warred. But the Philistines decided to go against Judah. But Judah's army went after Samson and bound him and delivered him to the enemy. *...and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire; and his bands loosed from off his hands. And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a 1000 men therewith.* Samson judged Israel 20 years.

## Chapter 16.

Read the chapter. Samson came to Gaza for a harlot and the Gazites found out about it. But at midnight Samson left, *taking the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron.*

Well, her comes Delilah. She wanted to know where Samson got his strength. He played with her by telling her why he has strength and each time he was captured by the Philistines, he would break loose. Delilah was desperate to find out for the Philistines where his strength was. Finally it wore him down and he told her *all his heart, and said unto her There has not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.* This time Delilah demanded money for this knowledge and they paid her and she delivered him, saved head. The Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, brought him down to Gaza, bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house. But his hair began to grow.

**You will find that there is pretty well ONLY ONE REASON that God destroys your enemy: it's because you bow down to it and worship it. 1 John 3:8 says For this reason was the Son of God manifest that He might destroy the works of the devil.**

*Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice...Our god has delivered Samson our enemy into our hand.*

They brought Samson forth in this coliseum and put him between some pillars. He asked a lad that he might feel the pillars of the foundation of the coliseum. There were about 3,000 men and women to watch blind Samson do sport for them.

Samson called on the Lord *and said O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once. O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes...And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.*

So Jesus, too, died to protect His people Israel. You cannot fathom such love to die to save his people.

### **Chapter 17.**

Read the chapter. Now, Micah, who stole 1100 shekels of silver from his mother: when he confessed his mother said *Blessed be thou of the Lord, my son.* He restored the money to his mother but his mother decided to make a graven image and a molten image and she kept it in the house of Micah which had gods, an ephod, teraphim, and he even consecrated one of his sons, who became a priest.

To Micah came a young Levite out of Bethlehem-judah of the family of Judah and Micah paid him ten shekels of silver a year and a suit of clothes and food and to be a father and a priest to Micah. So added to his graven images, and molten images and other gods, an ephod, teraphim, his one consecrated son and now he adds another consecrated man, this time a Levite, a priest.

### **Chapter 18**

Read the chapter. During that time there was no king in Israel and the tribe of Dan was looking for an inheritance and where to live. Five men from that tribe came to Micah. The Levite told them that they should have prosperity in Laish, who were a peaceable people. They returned to their home and then took 600 men with weapons of war and returned as far as Micah. The five men then said to Micah *Do you know that there is in these houses an ephod, and teraphim, and a graven image, and a molten image?* So the 600 went to Micah's house and took all his gods. The Levite wanted to know what they were doing. *And they said unto him, Hold your peace, lay your hand upon your mouth, and go with us, and be to us a father and a priest: is it better or you to be a priest unto the house of one man, or that you be a priest unto a tribe and a family in israel?* The Levite was glad and went with them. Micah and his men pursued the Danites but because the Danites were greater in number, Micah returned to his house. The Danites on the other hand destroyed the peaceable people in Laish and burned the city. They set up the gods and made Gershom, the son of Manaaseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of captivity of the land. Here we go again!

### **Chapter 19.**

Read the chapter. There was no king in Israel in those days. A certain Levite took himself a concubine but she continued to be a whore and went away to her father's house to Bethlehem-judah and was there for four months. The father-in-law rejoiced when he came and made him stay three days eating and drinking. On the fourth day was the same; on the fifth day the man decided, even if it was evening that he would leave with his concubine, his servant and two saddled asses. They came to Jerusalem but would not stay there as his servant wanted to. When they were in Gibeah, which belonged to Benjamin, and an old man after working in the field, asked them to come in. While they were eating and drinking and their asses were fed, certain sons of Belial, ... *Bring forth the man that came into your house, that we may know him.* They were like Sodom and Gomorrah. The master of the house would not let the man go out but he offered his own daughter and the concubine to them. But the Levite offered them his concubine and they abused her all night until the morning and then seeing she was dead, he cut her up into 12 pieces and sent her into all the coasts of Israel. What horror! They had never seen such a thing!

### **Chapter 20.**

Read the chapter. The whole of Israel gathered before the Lord, from Dan to Beer-sheba, with the land of Gilead, 400,000 footmen that drew sword. They decided to go against Gibeah of Benjamin and asked for the wicked men but they were not released to them. The men of Israel asked the Lord, who should go first to battle the Gibeahites and the Benjamin tribe. So this was 400,000 men against 26,000 and Gibeah 700 men. Gibeah destroyed 22,000 Israelites; Benjamin destroyed 18,000 Israelites the second day. They went before the Lord again with fasting and burnt offerings and peace

offerings. The Ark of the Covenant was there in those days so the children of Israel inquired of the Lord again. Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron was the priest and the Lord told him *Go up; for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand.* 25,100 men of Benjamin and set the city of Gibeah on fire. The men of Israel killed Benjamin, as well as the men of every city, as the beast, and all that came to hand: also they set on fire all the cities that they came to.

### **Chapter 21.**

Read the chapter. Benjamin was destroyed. *And the people came to the house of God,...O Lord God of Israel, why is this come to pass in Israel, that there should be today one tribe lacking in Israel?* They offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. The men of Israel repented but they had sworn not to give any of their daughters to the remaining Benjamin brothers but they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead 400 young virgins and they brought them into the camp of Shiloh in the land of Canaan. The rest of the men of Benjamin found their virgins in a vineyard as they danced and they all returned unto their inheritance, and repaired the cities, and dwelt in them. Every man did that which was right before his eyes.