

Joshua, Judges & Ruth

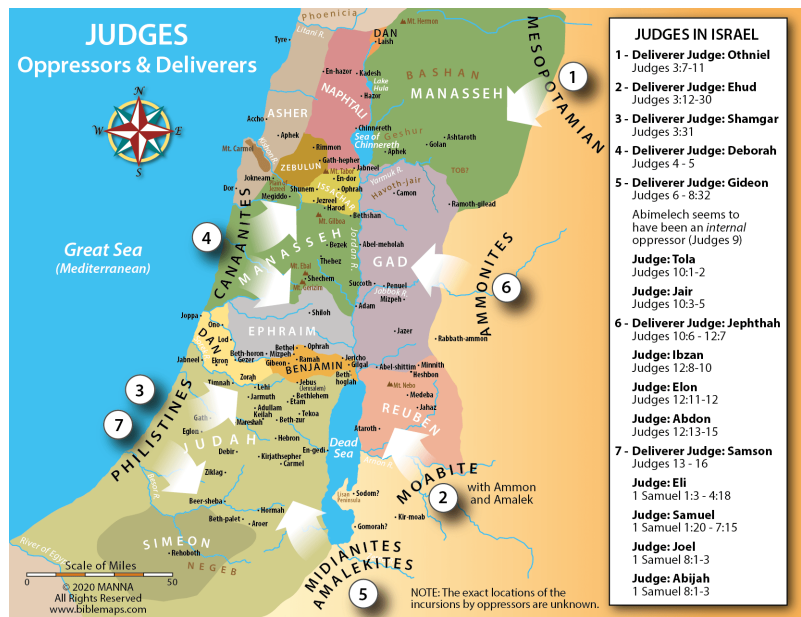
In Those Days There
Was No King in Israel

Lesson 6 • May 22 • Judges 3-5
Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah & Barak

Judges 3 begins by describing the nations “that the LORD left, to _____ Israel by them... to _____ whether Israel would obey the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses” (3:1, 4). Notice the details provided in 3:5-8. Where does Israel’s downward spiral begin?

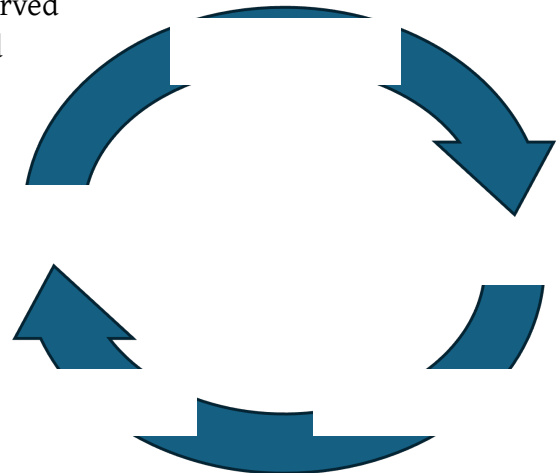
So the people of Israel lived

_____ the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And their daughters they took to themselves for _____, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and they served their _____. And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. They _____ the LORD their God and _____ the Baals and the Asheroth. Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel...



Throughout Judges 3-5, we read about four different “judges” that the LORD raises up:

- _____ (3:7-11) - saved Israel after they had served the king of Mesopotamia for eight years, so the land had rest for _____ years.
- _____ (3:12-30) - delivered Israel after they had served the king of Moab for eighteen years, so the land had rest for _____ years.
- _____ (3:31) - killed 600 Philistines with an oxgoad, and he also saved Israel.
- _____ (4:1-5:31) - inspired _____ to fight after the people of Israel had been oppressed cruelly for twenty years by the Canaanites; and the land had rest for _____ years.



That’s 160 years worth of history. But how did Israel keep falling into the same trap? And what can we learn from it all? Let’s talk about it...

For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's revisit [Judges 3:1-4](#). Why would the LORD "test" Israel? Is there any value to "tests"? This isn't the first time we run across this sort of language in the Old Testament ([Exo 20:18-21](#); [Deut 8:1-2, 11-16](#); [13:1-3](#)) and it even shows up in the New Testament ([James 1:2-4](#); [1 Pet 4:12](#)). So what were these tests in *Judges* all about, and how did Israel do?
- If you were to chart Israel's downward slide away from God as it's described in [3:5-7](#), how would you do it using the space to the right?
- Looking at the chart you just made, let's think for a moment about us. Are we in similar danger? Can we fall into the same sort of traps? If so, how? What does the danger look like today?
- [Judges 3:7-11](#) isn't the first time we read about Othniel. Take a look back at [1:11-15](#). What famous Israelite was Othniel related to? When we read that "the Spirit of the LORD was upon him" ([3:10](#)), what are we being told?
- "And he judged Israel" ([3:10](#)). We heard a little bit about these "judges" last week in [2:16-19](#). What did these judges do? What was their role and what were the people of Israel expected to do?
- What do you notice about the language in [3:8, 12](#), and [4:2](#) as they describe the actions of the LORD? What can we learn from this? Notice also [Hebrews 12:5-11](#). What do we need to understand about the discipline of the Lord?
- What role did Ehud play in Israel's history ([3:12-30](#))? And Deborah ([4-5](#))?
- As you look over this 160-year-stretch of Israel's history, what do you think we need to see, understand, apply, and remember?