

Joshua, Judges & Ruth

In Those Days There Was No King in Israel

Lesson 7 • May 29 • Judges 6-10
Gideon, Abimelech, Tola & Jair

The rollercoaster ride of Israel's history continues as **Judges 6** begins by telling us...

The people of Israel did what was _____ in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years... And Israel was brought very _____ because of Midian. And the people of Israel _____ out for help to the LORD. (6:1, 6)

Throughout **Judges 6-10**, we read about four more leaders in Israel:

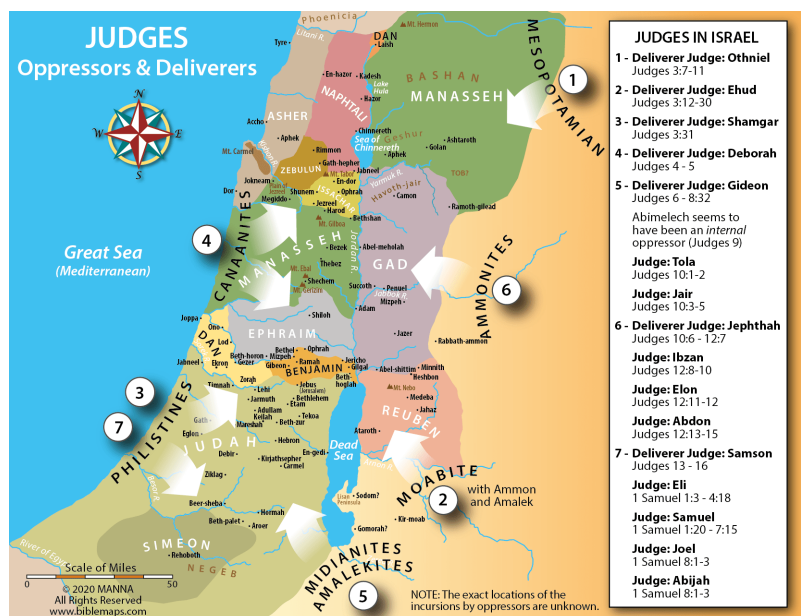
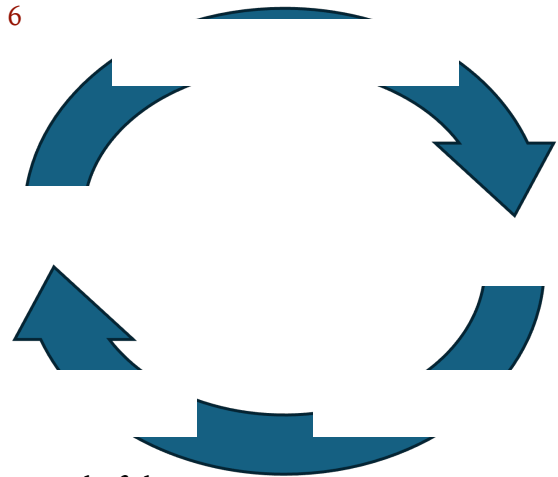
- _____ (6-8) - described himself as belonging to the _____ clan in Manasseh and the _____ in his father's house (6:15), but an angel of the LORD told him to pull down the altar of Baal that his _____ had, cut down the Asherah beside it, and build an altar to the LORD your God (6:25-27). "The _____ of the LORD clothed Gideon" (6:34) and he led _____ men to great victory against an innumerable army of Midianites and Amalekites (7:1-8:21). But **Judges 8:22-31** tells us how Gideon and Israel started the cycle all over again. The land may have "had rest forty years in the days of Gideon" (8:28), but as soon as Gideon died, "the people of Israel _____ again" (8:33).

- _____ (9) - Gideon's son, hired "worthless and reckless fellows" (9:4), killed his _____ brothers (9:5), and was made king by the leaders of Shechem (9:6). But God "sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem" (9:23), and eventually "_____ the evil of Abimelech" when he died outside a tower in Thebez (9:50-57).

- _____ (10:1-2)

- _____ (10:3-5)

...and so the cycle only continued as the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD (10:6).



For Class & Family Discussion:

- After Israel had been brought “very low” by the Midianites and cried out to the LORD for help, the LORD sent a prophet with a message. Let’s read [Judges 6:7-10](#) together. In your own words, what was that message?

- In [6:13](#), as an angel of the LORD begins to call him, we’re given a glimpse into Gideon’s frame of mind. What did he believe about the LORD? Was he right?

- In [6:25-32](#), what was Step #1 in Israel’s deliverance from the Midianites? Why did deliverance need to start here?

- In [7:1-8](#), what lesson was the LORD teaching Gideon and Israel? By choosing someone of the weakest clan in Manasseh, least in his father’s house ([6:15](#)), and giving him just 300 soldiers, what did the LORD want everyone in Israel to understand ([7:2](#))? “My own hand has saved me”: can we be guilty of thinking and acting like that today? If so, in what ways?

- In [8:22-23](#), Gideon seems to have his mind in the right place, but [8:24-31](#) describes some foolish decisions. What was an ephod and who wore the ephod in Israel ([Exo 28; 39](#))? How did this become “a snare to Gideon and to his family” ([8:27](#))?

- [Judges 9:1-2](#) gives us a window into Abimelech’s heart. What seems to be most important to him?

- As you look at this era of Israel’s history, who are they really acting like? [Judges 10:6-9](#) gives us a sad summary. What continued to happen as a result?

- These aren’t easy or pleasant chapters to read in Israel’s history. What do you think the big ideas are that we need to see, understand, and apply?