

IMPACT

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A Weekly Publication of the Metropolitan Bible Baptist Church Containing
Life-Changing Sunday School Lessons and BMA's Preaching Materials

VERSE TO MEMORIZE:

*"Praise ye the Lord for the
avenging of Israel, when
the people willingly
offered themselves."*

JUDGES 5:2

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Lesson 7: BOOK OF JUDGES

TITLE: The book derives its title from its content about the judges of Israel, who were leaders during tribal or national emergencies at a time when there was no central government. The Hebrew title for this book, *Shopetim*, means "ruling leaders" or "judges."

AUTHORSHIP: Though the author of this book is unknown, the Talmud suggests Samuel, and it is possible that he may have written portions. Judges was written after the death of Samson and after the coronation of King Saul, but before the conquest of Jerusalem by David about 990 B.C. (see 1:21; 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25).

DATE OF JUDGES: 1050—1000 B.C.

KEY WORDS & THEMES: "Apostasy"; "Judgment"; "Repentance"; "Mercy." The Israelites continually fail to learn their lesson. Their "apostasy" means they will have to pay the price of "judgment" from God. But when they finally show "repentance," God will then in His "mercy" raise up a judge to lead the people to restoration and rest.

KEY VERSES: Deborah (Chapter 4); Gideon (Chapters 6-8); and Samson (Chapters 13-16)

HISTORICAL SETTING:

The events of this book cover the turbulent period in Israel's history from about 1380 to 1050 B.C., from the conquest of Palestine to the beginnings of the monarchy. Though the land had been generally conquered and occupied under Joshua, many important Canaanite strongholds had been bypassed, leaving their subjugation to individual Israelite tribes. The book of Judges describes this warfare, as the Hebrews tried to complete their occupation of the land. The judges were military and civil leaders during this time when the nation was a loose confederacy. Some of the judges ruled concurrently since each one did not necessarily rule over the entire land.

OUTLINE OF JUDGES:

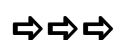
A. Background of the Period of Judges, 1:1-3:6

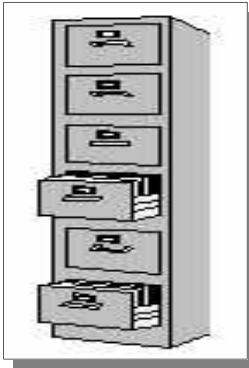
1. The Political Background, 1:1-36
2. The Spiritual Background, 2:1-36

**STRAIGHT FROM THE
PASTOR'S HEART
DR. BENNY M. ABANTE, JR.**

B. History of the Period of the Judges, 3:7-16:31

1. Mesopotamian Oppression and Othniel's Deliverance, 3:7-11
2. Moabite Oppression and Ehud's Deliverance, 3:12-30
3. Shamgar's Victory over the Philistines, 3:31
4. Canaanite Oppression and Deliverance by Deborah and Barak, 4:1-5:31
 - 4.1. The story, 4:1-24
 - 4.2. The song, 5:1-31
5. Medianite Oppression and Gideon's Deliverance, 6:1-8:35
 - 5.1. Gideon's call, 6:1-40
 - 5.2. Gideon's conquests, 7:1-8:35
6. Abimelech's Tyranny, 9:1-57
7. Tola's Judgeship, 10:1-2
8. Jair's Judgeship, 10:3-5
9. Ammonite Oppression and Jephthah's Deliverance, 10:6-12:7
10. Ibzan's Judgeship, 12:8-10
11. Elon's Judgeship, 12:11-12
12. Abdon's Judgeship, 12:13-15
13. Philistine Oppression and Samson's Career, 13:1-16:31
 - 13.1. Annunciation and Birth of Samson, 13:1-25
 - 13.2. Marriage of Samson, 14:1-20
 - 13.3. Exploits of Samson, 15:1-20
 - 13.4. Fall of Samson, 16:1-31





The BMA ARCHIVES

Dr. Benny M. Abante, Jr.'s
PREACHING MATERIALS

OUTLINE OF JUDGES:

- C. Apostasy of the Period of the Judges, 17:1-21:25**
1. Micah and the Migration of the Danites, 17:1-18:31
 2. The Benjamite War, 19:1-21:25

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

There is always a price to be paid for our sins. The price for sin is destruction and death. We all need proper leadership in our lives (*the most important leader and judge for each of us today is Jesus Christ*). Without strong leaders we are more inclined to be influenced by damaging circumstances or deceptive people. God in His mercy will deliver us when we repent wholeheartedly of our sins and obey Him. Doing right in our own eyes is not necessarily doing right in God's eyes.

—*RYRIE Study Bible/The KJV Rainbow Study Bible / BMA'S Messages 02/15/09*

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SUMMARY OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES **-The Maxwell Leadership Bible-**

JUDGES receives its name from the leaders who assumed responsibility for the nation of Israel from the time of Joshua until the beginning of the monarchy, a period of about 200 years. The term "judge" meant civil magistrate or governor or head of state, clearly a political term for leader. During the times of judges, public opinion leaned heavily against a monarchy. Only external pressures applied by prospective invaders eventually prompted the people to demand a king (1 Samuel 8). At the time of the judges, God Himself reigned as King of Israel, while the judges served as under-shepherds.

Under Joshua's leadership, Israel defeated anyone who stands in her way and occupied the land God had promised the nation decades before.

**NOTHING SHALL OUR MOUTH SPEAK
BUT THE BLESSING OF THE WORD
AND THE GLORY OF GOD.**



**THROUGH THE BIBLE
IN A YEAR**

CHAPTERS TO READ THIS WEEK:

FEBRUARY 15 NUMBERS 1-3
FEBRUARY 16 NUMBERS 4-6
FEBRUARY 17 NUMBERS 7-9
FEBRUARY 18 NUMBERS 10-12
FEBRUARY 19 NUMBERS 13-15
FEBRUARY 20 NUMBERS 16-18
FEBRUARY 21 NUMBERS 19-21

To memorize one (1) verse in every chapter, tokens shall be awarded to those who can recite all memory verses after every book.

After Joshua died, however, the tribes ran into trouble trying to consolidate their inheritance. Turmoil reigned in Palestine. The Philistines pushed in from the Mediterranean Coast, establishing a stranglehold on the region until the time of King David. Other ethnic groups, such as the Midianites, attacked the eastern flank of Israel. The scattered tribes had grown divided and weak. They lacked a strong leader who could cast a national vision. The last and most famous verse in the book speaks volumes: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25).

Still God always raises up a leader for the hour—the theme of this book. Whenever suffering grew terrible and the people cried out in despair, God called forth a judge (or deliverer) to throw off the oppressor's yoke. Sometimes these judges were good and noble men like Gideon or Samuel; at other times erratic and unstable men like Samson rose to the fore.

In any case, the message rings clear: God raises up the weak and unlikely to confound the strong and sensible. Deborah, a woman, led in a time when men were considered the superior gender; Gideon, the runt of the litter in the smallest of the tribes of Israel, rose to greatness in his time; and the strong man Samson ruled for a short while until his ability to control his own appetites led to an impetuous end...Chaos reigns whenever human-kind does whatever is "right in his own eyes." Civilized life becomes impossible when every man has "his own way." We always need healthy, spiritual leaders, and this book illustrates that truth as vividly as another.

ONLY GOD ruled as Israel's King, and only He could raise up human leaders to serve under Him.

