

Judges- Week 1 Homework

For your reference, here is a simple outline of the book of Judges. This week we will be studying the Introduction section, Judges 1:1-3:6.

Introduction: Judges 1:1-3:6

Cycle 1: Ehud- Judges 3:7-30

Cycle 2: Deborah- Judges 4-5

Cycle 3: Gideon and Abimelech- Judges 6-10:5

Cycle 4: Jephthah- Judges 10-12

Cycle 5: Samson- Judges 13-16

Conclusion: Judges 17-21

Before we start, let's go back a sec and read Joshua 23 to help set the stage. This was after the Israelites entered the promised land and right before the book of Judges begins. What specific instructions were the Israelites given? List the things they were told to do, and the things they were told not to do. (*We are making observations here, part of the Comprehension step!*)

Now for today's text! Read Judges 1:1-3:6. Keep in mind as you read that this is essentially what is known as the introduction section to the book. It sets the stage for the rest of the book. Take note of anything that stands out to you. This page is for your notes, feel free to add questions and observations here as thoughts come to you throughout the week. *(Remember, the first step to comprehension is good questions and observations!)*

Take a closer look at chapter 1. When do you first see the Israelites not obeying God fully? (Both in reference to Joshua 23 as well as His instructions to them in this section of Judges). List every time they did not obey in chapter 1 on the left side of the chart below. List the times they did obey fully on the right. *(More observations aimed at comprehension!)*

Times they <u>DID NOT</u> obey fully	Times they <u>DID</u> obey fully

*Now look at your chart. How many times did they obey fully? How many times did they only obey partially or not at all? Which column has more in it? What do you think this means? (*In asking what our observations mean we are now moving on to interpreting what we have observed!*)

Let's move on to 2:1-5. In your own words, how did the Israelites fall short, and what were the consequences? (*Paraphrasing, another great tool for comprehension!*)

Chapter 1-2:5 essentially gave a summary of what happened. It started with "...after the death of Joshua". Now we get to 2:6 and read "When Joshua dismissed the people...". So what's happening here? No, Joshua has not risen from the dead. This is a literary tool that happens sometimes in scripture where the same account is told twice, but from a different perspective or for a different purpose. We are about to read another perspective on what happened! Now read 2:6-3:6. How does this account seem different than the first? How is it similar? (*Observations for comprehension*)

In Judges 1:12, Caleb offers up his daughter in marriage to whoever can attack and capture Kiriath-sepher. What are your thoughts and feelings about this? What questions do you have about it? Does this make Caleb seem like a good or bad father to you? Why?

Finally, let's look at the end of this section, chapter 3:1-6. Did the Israelites obey fully? Did they conquer and possess the land fully? Did they experience God's blessings fully? Why did the Lord leave some of the Canaanite nations? *(More observations!)*

What is an area of your life that you have only obeyed partially? Do you feel like you are experiencing the fullness of God's blessings in this area? Is there anything you need to repent from after reading the account of the Israelites? (*Finally, Application time!*)

At the end of chapter 2, we saw that God left some of the Canaanites "in order to test Israel by them, whether they will keep the way of the Lord to walk in as their fathers did, or not." (Judges 2:22) Can you think of anything in your own life that God has possibly allowed in order to test you? (*More application!*)