

Judges- Week 2 Homework

Read Judges 3:7-5:31. We are going to see the first few cycles of Judges in this session. 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!)*

Let's take a closer look at 3:7-11. This is the first cycle and is sort of a template, letting the reader know what the "ideal" cycle should look like. What are the steps in the cycle? *(we are making observations here that we will compare every other cycle to!)*

Step 1: *(verse 7)*

Step 2: *(verse 8)*

Step 3: *(verse 9a)*

Step 4: *(verse 9b)*

Step 5: *(verse 10)*

Step 6: *(verse 11a)*

Step 7: *(verse 11b)*

What do we know about Othniel from last week? Would he have been an obvious choice for a judge? Why or why not? *(We are taking our observations about Othniel and moving to interpretation! We are asking what our observations mean!)*

Read the account of Ehud in 3:12-30. We see the same cycle but with a lot more details. What information are we given about Ehud? Does he seem like a likely choice for a Judge? Why or why not? *(Again, we are making some observations here to work on the Comprehension step, then moving to Interpretation by asking what our observations mean.)*

Chapter 3:13 says they possessed the city of the palm trees. Do a quick google search to look up what city this was. What was the significance of them being defeated in this particular city? *(Looking up terms or places we don't know is another great and simple tool for comprehension. Then asking the significance moves us to interpretation)*

What do you think of the manner in which Ehud achieved victory? Do you struggle with the fact that he tricked the king and murdered him the way he did? How do you think the Israelites would have heard this story? Would they have had a problem with it? Why or why not? *(Comparing how we respond to a portion of scripture with how the original intended audience would have responded is another great tool to help in comprehension!)*

Read 3:31. The account of Shamgar is given only one verse! Why do you think it was included at all? What is an oxgoad? *(a quick google search to look this up will help our comprehension!)* With the little information we have here, does he seem like a likely choice for a Judge? Why or why not? *(More observations leading to interpretation)*

Read chapter 4. Deborah is the only woman Judge in a culture where women were not typically seen in positions of leadership. What do you think it means that there was a woman Judge? *(We are flexing our interpretation muscles here, don't look this up, there are lots of opinions out there one this and I want yours!!)*

In 4:8, do you think Barak's response here was a good one or a bad one? Did it show respect and reverence, or a lack of faith? Why? *(Like the last question even most commentators disagree on this, don't look it up, I want your actual opinion here!)*

In verse 4:11, where did Heber live? In 4:17 what was the relationship between Heber and the Jabin? *(Making observations here)*. What does this mean? *(Now interpreting our observations)*. Based on what we know of Heber, do Jael's actions seem to be ones that her husband would have agreed with? What does this show us about Jael? *(More interpretation here!)*

What do you think of the manner in which Jael killed the king? Do you struggle with the fact that she tricked the king and murdered him the way she did? How do you think the Israelites would have heard this story? Would they have had a problem with it? Why or why not? *(Again, we are comparing how we respond to a portion of scripture with how the original intended audience would have responded. This is a great tool when something in scripture feels difficult for us to understand or swallow.)*

Read Chapter 5. This whole chapter is a song written to celebrate what happened in chapter 4. What do we get from chapter 5 that we did not get in chapter 4? Who is the one (or ones) who seems to have delivered Israel in chapter 4? Who is the one who seems to have delivered Israel in chapter 5? (More observations to help our comprehension)

We see God using two women in this section, Deborah and Jael. One is in a position of leadership and authority, and the other is a common everyday person. Which woman do you identify with more? How could God be wanting to use you to fulfill His purposes, regardless of your leadership status or abilities? (*Moving to some application here!*)

Barak did what the Lord called him to do, even though he knew he wouldn't get recognition for the victory and the odds looked completely stacked against him. What is the Lord calling you to do that seems impossible? Like Barak, are you willing to go wherever he calls? (*Application again!*)