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The Book of Judges

- Author:** Probably Samuel
- Timeframe:** Approximately 300 years (some Judges served simultaneously in different areas)
- Key Verses:** Chapter 2:7, 10; 21:25
- Outline:** Introduction – Ch. 1-2
Narrative of the Judges – Ch. 3-16
Conclusion – Ch. 17-21

Chapter 1

Israel Owned the Land
Israel did not Possess all of the Land
Israel could not Enjoy all of the Land

1. Additional Land is Conquered
Judah & Simeon – the Lord was with them
Othniel, Caleb's nephew
Chariots of Iron in the Valley (19)
(Joshua 17:18)

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2. Some Land is not Conquered

Judah – (19)

Benjamin (21)

Manasseh (27)

Ephraim (29)

Zebulon (30)

Asher (32)

Naphtali (33)

Dan (34) forced into the mountain

Reuben, Gad, half of the tribe of Manasseh
(East side of Jordan)

Issachar not mentioned

*They neglected the reading of the Word of God
Deuteronomy 31:9-13

*The command was to conquer the land of Canaan

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Chapter 2

- God commanded the Israelites to destroy the Canaanites
- The Israelites allowed some Canaanites to live making them tributaries
- The Israelites soon joined the Canaanites in idolatrous, evil practices
- God chastened Israel by letting the Canaanites oppress them in bondage

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 – unequal yoke

1. Review of God's Command
An angel – the Lord Himself
God kept His covenant
Israel did not keep their covenant
 No agreements with the people
 Tear down their altars
Numbers 33:55
2. Joshua's Death
Served the Lord all of the days of Joshua
Served the Lord all of the days of the elders
that outlived Joshua
There rose another generation (10)

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3. Israel's Cycle
Disobedience – the Sin of Idolatry
Distress – Bondage
Discipline which lead to Repentance
Deliverance through the Judge
Rest until the Death of the Judge

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Chapter 3

1. The Testing of Israel by the Heathen Nations Philistines – (Joshua 13:3)

Canaanites – (Genesis 10:15-18)

Sidonians, Hivites, Hittites, Amorites,
Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites

- The Israelites lived among them
- The Israelites allowed their children to marry them
- The Israelites served their gods

2. Othniel, the First Judge

Caleb's nephew (Judges 3:9)

- Israel's Sin
- God's Judgment (serving the enemy 8 years)
- Israel cried out to the Lord
- God raised up a deliverer
- Israel had rest for 40 years

3. Ehud

- Israel's Sin
- God's Judgment (serving the enemy 18 years)

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Eglon the king of Moab with Ammon
& Amalek

- Israel cried out to the Lord
- God raised up a deliverer
Ehud the left handed man
Ehud vs. Eglon
10,000 men of Moab slain
- Israel had rest for 80 years

4. Shamgar

He slew 600 Philistines with an ox goad

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Chapter 4

1. Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord after Ehud was dead
2. God allowed the Canaanites to oppress them
 - Jabin, King of Canaan reigning in Hazor (Joshua 11:1, 6, 10, 13)
 - Sisera – captain of the army
 - 900 Chariots of iron
3. Deborah the prophetess
 - Deborah = bee
 - She judged Israel
 - Mother of Israel (Judges 5:7)
 - God used her to communicate His truth
4. Barak the general
 - Barak = lightning
 - 10,000 men were to be gathered
5. The Place of Battle
 - Kishon River

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6. The Lord's Command

- God's command was to go to battle
- God promised them a victory
- Barak wanted Deborah to go with them (Maybe he wanted her presence as representative of the Lord before the people)
(He is mentioned in Hebrews 11:32)
- Deborah agrees to go but announces that the honor of victory will go to a woman

7. Heber the Kenite

- Descendant of Hobab, the brother-in-law of Moses (Numbers 10:29)

8. Sisera

- His army was defeated
- He ran off on foot
- He ran to the tent of Heber and Jael
- Jael killed Sisera with a tent nail

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Chapter 5

1. The Song of Praise by Deborah and Barak (vs. 1-5)

- They sang this praise to the Lord for the victory over the enemy
- The praise for the rain (vs.4)

(Psalm 68:7-9) O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wilderness; Selah: The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel. Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary.

2. The Distress of Israel (vs. 6-11)

- They were oppressed by the enemy
- No trade, traveling, tillage, peace, justice
- There were 40,000 men who could be used for battle
- She recognizes other leaders (nobles)

3. The Participants (vs. 12-18)

- Tribes who Volunteered
Ephraim, Benjamin, Machir, (half tribe of Manasseh) Issachar, Zebulon, Naphtali
- Tribes who did not participate
Reuben, Gad, (Gilead) Dan, Asher

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4. The Victory (vs. 19-23)
 - The coalition of kings came and fought against Israel
 - The stars of Heaven (God's Power)
 - The chariots were swept away in the river Kishon
 - Cursed is Meroz who did not participate
5. The Woman God used, Jael, wife of Heber the Kenite (vs. 24-27)
6. The Woman in mourning, Sisera's mother (vs. 28-30)
7. The Land had Rest for 40 years (vs. 31)

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Chapter 6

1. Israel does evil and God raises up another enemy to oppress them (vs. 1-6)
 - Midian – descendant of Abraham
 - *Genesis 25:1-2* Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah. And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah.
 - Israel hid from the Midianites – they hid themselves and their possessions
 - The Midianites came and destroyed the harvest, the fields and left them with nothing

2. Israel cries unto the Lord and God sends a prophet (vs. 7-10)
 - The unnamed prophet reminds them of God's past deliverance
 - The unnamed prophet reminds them that God is the only true God

3. God visits Gideon (vs. 11-24)
 - Nearly 100 verses are devoted to Gideon's life – more than any other Judge
 - Gideon was threshing wheat in hiding
 - The angel of the Lord appears to him

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- A man of many questions
 - If God is with us, then why are we oppressed? (13)
 - Where are all the miracles which we have heard of? (13)
 - How can I save Israel? (15)
 - If what you say is true, show me a sign (17)
 - Gideon offers a sacrifice
Very costly during this time of famine
He received his sign but became fearful of seeing the Lord
Exodus 33:20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.
 - Gideon builds an altar
Jehovah-shalom (peace)
4. God gives Gideon instructions (vs. 25-32)
- Destroy your father's altar to Baal and the grove (the grove refers to the image of Ashera, a female goddess – the “mother” of Baal and later his “wife”)
 - Build your own altar to God
 - Gideon and ten of his servants carry out the plan at night due to fear
 - The men of the city demand that Gideon be punished

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- Joash his father says for Baal to defend himself
 - Gideon is called Jerubbaal – let Baal contend for himself
5. Gideon Prepares for Battle (vs. 33-35)
- The Midianites and the Amalekites are prepared for battle
(Amalek – descendant of Esau)
 - The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon
 - He calls Israel to battle (sounded the trumpet) Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, Naphtali
6. Gideon asks for another sign (vs. 36-40)
- Dew on the fleece – earth dry
 - Fleece dry – earth wet with dew

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Chapter 7

1. Preparation for Battle (vs. 1-8)
 - God said that there were too many for battle
 - Those who were afraid could go home
 - 22,000 went home 10,000 remained
 - God said that there were still too many for battle
 - The Test by the water
 - 300 men who lapped the water with their hand
 - 9,700 men who drank the water on their knees

2. Plans for Battle (vs. 9-15)
 - God wanted Gideon to go and spy out the enemy
 - Take your servant Phurah if you are fearful
 - They overheard a Midianite retelling his dream to another man
 - They enemy had heard and was afraid of Gideon
 - God confirmed His plan to Gideon

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3. Weapons for Battle (vs. 16-18)
 - Divided the 300 men into 3 groups
 - Trumpets
 - Pitchers
 - Lamps
 - Battle Cry “The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon”

4. Surprise Attack (vs. 19-22)
 - Beginning of the middle watch
 - Blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers
 - Enemy drew their swords against each other

5. Enemy on the Run (vs. 23-25)
 - Israelite Tribes helped in pursuing the Midianites
 - Ephraim captured and killed the two princes of Midian

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Chapter 8

1. A soft answer for his critics (vs. 1-3)
 - Ephraim was not originally called to battle
 - Ehud & Ephraim Judges 3:27
 - Deborah & Ephraim Judges 5:14
 - Gideon spoke to them carefully
 - The accomplishments of Gideon and the 300 men were small in comparison to the men of Ephraim capturing Oreb and Zeeb

2. A stern warning for the skeptics (vs. 4-17)
 - Gideon and the 300 faint yet pursuing
 - Men of Succoth refuse to give food (Tribe of Gad on the east side of Jordan)
 - Men of Penuel refuse to give food (Tribe of Gad)
 - Gideon promises to return and discipline these men
 - These tribes were punished for aiding the enemy
 - Gideon punished the 77 leaders at Succoth
 - He tore down the tower at Penuel and killed the men

3. A solemn execution for his enemies (vs. 18-21)
 - Zebah & Zalmunna were brought back as captives by Gideon

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- They had sometime previously killed the brothers of Gideon
 - Gideon asks his son Jether to kill them but he is afraid (For a young child to kill a king would be very humiliating to the reputation of the king and would bring its own reputation on the child)
 - Gideon slew these flattering men
4. A strange question from his followers (vs. 22-23)
- Request for Gideon to rule over them
Gideon refuses and says that God will rule over them
5. A strange request from Gideon (vs. 22-27)
- Gideon requests their gold
 - **Gideon, the servant became Gideon, the celebrity**
 - He made an ephod which became an idol
6. A sad ending to Gideon's life (vs. 28-35)
- 40 years of quietness from Midian
 - Gideon had 70 sons with many wives
 - Abimelech, son of a concubine
 - Israel turns back to Baalim after Gideon dies
 - Israel forgot the Lord
 - Israel forgot the house of Gideon

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Chapter 9

1. Abimelech – “my father is the king”
 - Abimelech is the son of Jerubbaal (Gideon)
 - He was born of his father’s concubine in Shechem (8:31)
 - He was one of 71 children of Gideon (Gideon had many wives (8:30-31))

2. Abimelech – the path to being king
 - He rationalized why he should be king
 - Gideon had said that no one of his sons should be king (8:23)
 - His step brothers agreed to let him be king and gave him 70 pieces of silver from the treasury of Baal
 - He hired a worthless campaign staff
 - He had his 70 step brothers killed so that there would be no competition but the youngest one, Jotham, escaped

*He coveted to be king, he put false gods above the true God and he murdered his family.

3. Jotham – “Jehovah is perfect”
 - Jotham tells a parable

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- He equates the people looking for a king with looking at the trees
 - The Olive tree
 - The Fig tree
 - The Grape vine
 - The Thorn bush (bramble)
 - Jotham warns the people about making Abimelech king
4. Abimelech – trouble in the kingdom
- Things went well for three years
 - The men of Shechem revolted against Abimelech
 - They began to rob the caravans/traders
 - Gaal the son of Ebed began to lead the revolt against Abimelech
 - Gaal stood up and called for Abimelech to come and defend his kingdom
 - Zebul was the ruler of the city faithful to Abimelech
 - Zebul sent a private message to Abimelech and also sent a strategy for overtaking Gaal
 - They were to get ready for battle overnight
 - They divided themselves into four companies for battle
 - Gaal woke up in the morning to see the people ready for battle

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- Zebul encouraged Gaal to go to battle – to put actions to his words
- Abimelech fought against Gaal
- Abimelech went to battle against the people of Shechem
 - He overtook the people outside of the city
 - He overtook the people inside of the city
 - He burned the tower where 1,000 people were hiding
- Abimelech went to battle against the people of Thebez
 - The people were hiding in s a strong tower
 - Abimelech tried to burn it with fire but got too close
 - He was struck in the head by a millstone from a woman
 - He had his armourbearer kill him so that no one could say he was killed by a woman
- God remembered the sins of Abimelech
 - He was killed with a stone
 - He had killed his brothers upon one stone (9:5)

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Chapter 10

1. Israel's lack of gratitude to the Lord (vs. 1-5)

- Tola judged Israel for 23 years
- Jair judged Israel 22 years

Israel had 45 years of peace and security and failed to thank the Lord for His blessings

(Deuteronomy 8:10)

2. Israel's lack of submission to the Lord (vs. 6-16)

- They worshiped 7 different pagan gods
Baalim, Ashtaroth, gods of Syria, gods of Zidon, gods of Moab, gods of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines

- They were sold into the hands Philistine and the Ammonites (18 years of oppression)

- The Lord had delivered Israel from 7 different nations

Egyptians, Amorites, Ammonites, Philistines, Zidonians, Amalekites, and the Maonites

- God sent a startling message
 - The people had abandoned God
“ye have forsaken me”
 - God had abandoned the people
“I will deliver you no more”

God know the difference between true repentance and temporary regret

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3. Israel's lack of leadership (vs. 17-18)
 - Israel gathered themselves together and sought for a leader

Chapter 11

1. Jephthah, the unwanted brother (vs. 1-3)
 - He was a might man of valour – strength in war
 - He was the son of a harlot
 - His father Gilead, married and had many sons
 - He was rejected by his step brothers
 - He was to receive no inheritance
 - He dwelt in the land of Tob
2. Jephthah, the unopposed leader (vs. 4-11)
 - The children of Ammon brought war against Israel
 - The elders of Gilead sought for Jephthah to be their captain
 - Jephthah reminded them that they had expelled him
 - He agreed to lead in battle if they would make him their head
 - Jephthah attributed victory not to himself but to the Lord

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Hebrew 11:32 – Jephthah is mentioned among the great heroes of faith

3. Jephthah, the unsuccessful diplomat (vs. 12-28)
 - He begins with trying to negotiate a peace treaty with the king of Ammon
 - The king of Ammon claims that Israel had taken away his land and wanted it to be restored to him
 - Jephthah gives some historical facts
 - Israel had asked the kings of Edom and Moab for permission to pass through their lands on the way to Canaan from Egypt
 - They were not given permission so they traveled around their lands until they came to the Arnon river (border between the Moabites and the Amorites)
 - They sought permissions from Sihon, king of the Amorites to pass through the land and he fought against Israel and lost
 - Israel possessed all of the land from the Arnon river to the Jabbok river from the wilderness on the east to the Jordan on the west (the land of the Amorites)
 - Jephthah gives some logical facts
 - The conquering army always takes possession of the land

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- God had given the land to Israel just as their god, Chemosh had given them the land originally from the Moabites
 - Why did the Moabites and their king, Balak, never dispute about the land?
 - Israel has dwelt in the cities for 300 years without any discussion
 - Jephthah gives some spiritual facts
 - Israel hath not sinned against Ammon
 - Ammon hath sinned against God
4. Jephthah, the undefeated warrior (vs. 29; 32-33)
- He was empowered by the Spirit of God
 - He defeated the Ammonites
5. Jephthah, the unwise father (vs. 30-31; 34-40)
- He made an unwise vow to God that he would give to the Lord whatever came out of his house after the victory over the Ammonites
 - When he came home from victory, his only daughter came out of the house to greet him
 - He realized that he had made a foolish vow that he must keep
 - She asked to mourn her virginity for two months
 - She returned and was dedicated to the Lord's work and would have no husband/children

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Chapter 12

1. The Accusation of the men of Ephraim (vs. 1)
 - They were angry that they were not included in the battle against Ammon
 - They threatened to burn Jephthah's house
 - They had given Gideon grief as well (8:1)

2. The Explanation from Jephthah (vs. 2-3)
 - Why did they not fight against Ammon these last 18 years?
 - The Lord gave the victory – why are you not happy?

3. The Confrontation (vs. 4-6)
 - Jephthah gathered the men of Gilead and fought against Ephraim
 - Ephraim had called the Gileadites, fugitives
 - The Gileadites took control over the passages of Jordan
 - Each one who came to cross the Jordan had to say Shibboleth – the Ephraimites could not pronounce it properly and were killed (42,000)

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4. Jephthah judged Israel six years (vs. 7)
5. Ibzan judged Israel seven years (vs. 8-10)
He had thirty sons and thirty daughters
6. Elon judged Israel ten years (vs. 11-12)
7. Abdon judged Israel eight years (vs. 13-15)
*He had forty sons and thirty nephews
(grandsons) that rode on seventy colts*

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Chapter 13

1. God brought punishment for sin again! (vs. 1)
 - The Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years
2. God prepared a deliverer (vs. 2-25)
 - Manoah, a Danite from Zorah, and his wife who had no children
 - The angel of the Lord comes to the woman and promises her that she will conceive a son
 - The child would be a Nazarite unto God his whole life

Nazarite Vow – Numbers 6:2-8

- Nazarite comes from the Hebrew word Nazir which means separated or consecrated
- The vow (time of consecration) could be made by a man or a woman
- They would separate themselves from any fruit of the vine (grapes, vinegar, wine)
- They would not cut their hair
- Most of the time the vow was for a specific period of time (Samson's was for life)
- They would not touch anything that was dead or unclean

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- Manoah's wife was to keep the Nazarite vow because the lifelong vow began at conception
- The child would begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines
- Manoah's wife recounted the experience to her husband
- Manoah believed his wife and the angel and prayed that the angel would come again and teach them
- The angel appeared again to Manoah's wife and she went and summoned her husband
- Manoah spoke to the angel and asked him to wait for they would offer a sacrifice
- Manoah asked his name so that they might show honor unto the man
- He said his name was a secret – that is wonderful
- Manoah offered a sacrifice unto the Lord and the angel ascended to heaven
- Manoah and his wife were fearful of death because they had seen God
- Manoah's wife reminds him that the Lord was pleased with their sacrifice
- Samson is born unto them – his name means “sunlight”
- The Spirit of the Lord came upon him at times

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Chapter 14

1. Samson and his relationship with his parents (vs. 1-5)
 - Samson went to Timnath (a city of the Philistines) and saw a woman there
 - He requested of his parents the dowry (money) for which to marry her
 - The Israelites were not to marry with the heathen nations (Exodus 34:12-16; Deuteronomy 7:1-4; 2 Corinthians 6:14)
 - He and his parents went to Timnath to meet this young lady

2. Samson and his Nazarite vow (vs. 5-9)
 - When arriving in Timnath, Samson went into a vineyard (a dangerous place to be for a Nazarite)
 - A lion attacked him and he killed him with his bare hands, but he told not his parents (he had touched that which was dead)
 - He continued to meet with the woman in Timnath
 - On the day he was to take her as his wife, he passed by the vineyard and the carcass of the lion and the carcass was full of honey

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- He ate of the honey and gave it also to his father and his mother
3. Samson and his tongue (vs. 10-18)
- He went with his parents to Timnath for the wedding
 - The Philistines offered him 30 companions to serve as friends of the bridegroom
 - Samson, trying to break the ice, tells a riddle about the lion and the honey and offers a wager of 30 garments if they can give him the answer within seven days
 - The Philistines could not get the answer to the riddle and blackmailed Samson's new wife to get them the answer or they would burn her and her father's house
 - Samson's wife wept before him until he gave her the answer which she gave to the Philistines
 - She betrayed her husband's confidence
4. Samson and his temper (vs. 18-20)
- Plowing – digging up that which is hidden
 - Samson became angry when the men spoiled his little game and killed 30 men of Ashkelon and took of their garments
 - Samson's wife was given unto one of the men in the “wedding party”

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Chapter 15

1. Samson and his vengeance (vs. 1-8)
 - After Samson cooled off, he returned to Timnath to take his wife
 - Her father would not allow him to have his wife because he had given her to one of the men in the wedding party using the excuse that he thought Samson hated her
 - He offered Samson her younger sister who was prettier
 - Samson justified his actions based on the fact that the Philistines had taken away his wife
 - Samson took out his anger on the Philistines by burning their crops. He tied 150 pairs of foxes (jackal – attributes of a fox/wolf) together and tied lit torches to their tails
 - Samson’s wife and her father were burned by the Philistines
 - Samson still not satisfied of his anger killed many more Philistines

2. Samson and the Philistines (vs. 9-15)
 - The Philistines prepared to go to war against Israel because of what Samson had done
 - 3,000 men of Judah came to Samson to deliver him to the Philistines

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- Samson rationalized his actions based on what the Philistines had done to him
- Samson made a deal with the men of Judah that they would bind him and deliver him to the enemy, but would not kill him themselves
- As he was delivered unto the Philistines, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him and he broke the cords that were binding him and he killed 1,000 men with a jawbone of an ass

3. Samson and his pride (vs. 16-20)

- Samson was filled with pride in describing his accomplishments
- He forgot that without the Lord he was nothing
- He called the place the “hill of the jawbone”
- God reminded him that he was nothing without water
- God provided water for him there from a hollow place and Samson called the place “the spring or fountain of the one who called”

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Chapter 16

1. Samson goes to Gaza (vs. 1-3)
 - Gaza was a primary city of the Philistines on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea a great distance from Samson's hometown
 - Regardless of Samson's reason for going to Gaza, he fell into sexual sin – lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh
 - The Philistines waited till morning to capture and kill him, but at midnight Samson took the doors/posts of the gate of the city and carried them away, thus escaping

2. Samson and Delilah (vs. 4-22)
 - Samson falls in love with a woman named Delilah – Sorek was on the border of Israel and the land of the Philistines
 - The five lords over the primary Philistine cities offered a substantial reward (5,500 pieces of silver) to Delilah for the capture of Samson (Judges 3:3)
 - Delilah diligently sought for the secret to Samson's strength
 - Bind me with seven green vines
 - Bind me with new ropes
 - Weave my hair into a loom

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- Delilah pressed him daily with her words so that he might tell her the secret – he tells her all his heart – he has made a Nazarite vow unto God and his hair is a symbol of that vow
 - While he was sleeping, his hair was cut off and Delilah began to cry for the Philistines and Samson was taken captive
 - His eyes were put out
 - He was bound with chains
 - He was made to push the grinding wheel
3. The Philistines rejoice (vs. 23-31)
- They offered sacrifices to Dagon (fish god)
 - They brought Samson out for entertainment
 - Samson leaned on the pillars of the house where 3,000 people watched him
 - Samson called unto the Lord for strength one last time. He lost his own life as well as killed more Philistines in this incident than previously in his entire life
 - His family came and took his body and buried it next to his father

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|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">□ Great strength in one area of life does not make up for great weaknesses in other areas□ God's presence does not overpower a person's will□ God uses imperfect instruments to accomplish his perfect will |
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Chapter 17

**Note: Chapters 17-21 leave the historical chronology and are presented as an “appendix” to show the wicked condition of the nation of Israel*

1. Confusion in their home (vs. 1-6)
 - Micah, the man from mount Ephraim
 - He stole his mother’s money (1,110 shekels)
 - He restored the money to his mother knowing that she had cursed the thief
 - Micah’s mother
 - She curses the thief who stole her money
 - She blesses her son after finding out that he was the thief
 - She claims the saved money was for them to have their own family idol (teraphim)
 - Micah’s son
 - He was made the family priest

How many commandments can one family break?

2. Confusion in their worship (vs. 7-13)
 - The Levite from Bethlehem
 - He came to live with Micah and his family
 - He became a father and priest to the family

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- The Family Priest
 - Micah paid him to become their priest
 - Micah felt that their family would be blessed because of their actions

Chapter 18

3. Confusion in their society (vs. 1-31)

- The tribe of Dan had not acquired their inherited land (Judges 1:34; Joshua 19:47-48)
- Dan sends five men to spy out the land
 - The spies lodge at the house of Micah
 - They ask the priest to seek God's will for their endeavor
 - Micah gives his blessing to the spies
 - The spies seek out a northern city (Laish or Leshem) and find a quiet people minding their own business
 - The spies return and prepare for battle
- Dan sends 600 soldier to conquer the northern unprotected city
 - They take the images and ephod from the house of Micah
 - They persuade Micah to go with them and be the priest of a whole tribe rather than one family
 - Micah pursues after them to retrieve his possessions

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- The Danites threaten him with death if he doesn't let them go
- The Danites burn the city and the inhabitants of Laish
 - The city had no protection
 - The city was rebuilt and renamed as the city of Dan
 - They set up the stolen images and made Jonathan the Levite and his sons their priests

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Chapter 19

1. Worldly Pleasures (vs.1-10)
 - A Levite from Mt. Ephraim had a concubine who became unfaithful to him and left him for four months
 - The Levite went to his father-in-law's home to retrieve his concubine and spent five days there eating and drinking

2. Wicked Perversion (vs. 11-28)
 - On their travels back home they stopped in Gibeah to lodge for the night
 - They prepared to stay the night in the street, but a passer by welcomed them into his own house and cared for them
 - Wicked, homosexual men came to the door and wanted to sodomize the man (Belial, worthless, wicked; a transliterated Hebrew word)
 - The owner offered his daughter and the man's concubine instead
 - They gang raped the concubine all night long to her death

3. Warped Publicity (vs. 29-30)
 - The Levite cut the concubine into 12 pieces
 - He sent one piece to each tribe of Israel

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Chapter 20

1. The Assembly (vs. 1-11)
 - The leaders of Israel gathered together to hear the story
 - The Levite told of the sin of the men of Gibeah in killing his concubine
 - The Israelites agreed to bring these men to justice and serve punishment

2. The Appeal (vs. 12-17)
 - Representatives were sent to the tribe of Benjamin requesting that they hand over these wicked men
 - The tribe of Benjamin refused to hand them over and prepared for battle
 - Benjamin had 26,000 swordsmen, and 700 left-handed experts with the sling
 - Israel had 400,000 swordsmen

3. The Attack (vs. 18-40)
 - Israel sought the Lord about which tribe should go to battle first
 - The first day of battle was against Benjamin and Judah – Judah lost 22,000 soldiers that day

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- The second day of battle gave Benjamin another victory killing 18,000 of Israel
- Israel sought the Lord again and the Lord promised a victory
- Israel sent some of the army to draw the Benjamites out of the city and others waited in secret
- They drew them out of the city and then ambushed them – 25,100 of Benjamin were killed and the city of Gibeah burned
- 600 men alone escaped

Chapter 21

Consequences & Compensation

- Israel had sworn to not give their daughters to be wives of the Benjamites
- The Benjamite tribe was on the verge of extinction
- Israel solved the problem by punishing the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead – they had not participated in the battle nor made the vow
- Israel sent 12,000 men to destroy Jabesh-gilead minus 400 virgins
- The 400 women were given to Benjamin to repopulate the tribe
- The remaining 200 were allowed to kidnap a wife at the feast of Shiloh (taken not given)