

# UP WITH THE BIBLE

Studies through the Bible ✦ Learning the Word ✦ Applying the lessons of Truth

## Scripture Setting

Another generation arose “who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel” (Judges 2:10). The book of Judges shows the importance of leadership and obedience to God’s Word.

## Lesson Insight

Every generation needs a renewal experience with God. Spiritual leadership is vital for successful Christian living.

## Take Home

Restoration and renewal are wonderful gifts of the grace of God. Never take lightly the privilege of repentance and the forgiveness He gives.

## Looking Ahead

God has a plan! He prepared Samuel to be a judge, a priest, and a prophet in Israel. Because of the self will of the people God allowed them to have a king. (1 Samuel 1-10)



Samson’s final act: destroy the temple of the Philistines

## Judges: Apostasy and Renewal

Following two dynamic leaders, Moses and Joshua, there was no longer a central leader in the newly settled land of Canaan. The tribes looked to family elders and the Levites that served in the tabernacle for leadership. The Levites brought news of other parts of the nation when they returned from their time of service.

Without spiritual leadership and with the influence of pagan nations around them they adopted idol worship and practices forbidden in the Law of God delivered to their fathers by Moses. As a result of their failure to keep the covenant, God brought correction through conflicts with other nations in the land and caused them to be defeated in battle and brought into servitude.

In these times of oppression they again called out to the Lord God who raised up Judges in the land to lead them in battle





## Outline of the Lesson

The new generation in Canaan grew up in religious homes, but didn't know the Lord. It is the responsibility of every generation to transmit truth. It is also the next generation's responsibility to learn it, own it, and teach it.

- Because they did not occupy all the promised Land the culture of Canaan began to influence Israel. They adopted pagan practices of worship and were judged by God for their disobedience (Judges 3:7-8).
- Deborah (Judges 4-5) was a prophetess and the first female leader in Israel. They defeated Sisera, commander of the army of Jabin, King in Hazor.
- Gideon (Judges 6-8) needed absolute assurance of his call. Won a great victory over the Midianites with only 300 men.
- Samson (Judges 13-16) was physically strong, but morally and spiritually weak. His weakness led to his captivity and death.

These three judges show a snapshot of Israel, and God's efforts to restore their relationship with Him, and a renewal of commitment to the Covenant.

against their oppressors. When they prevailed there was a renewal of spiritual interest and rest from conflict in the land. After some time passed they repeated the cycle of apostasy again. They would again be brought under the oppression of judgment and again would cry out to God for deliverance and renewal.

High points of the book are great victories over their enemies under the leadership of Gideon, Samson, and Deborah (a female Judge in Israel). Though God continued to call Judges to lead the people, the spiritual condition of Israel suffered further deterioration until there was no rest from enemies that surrounded them. Spiritual depravity is evidenced in their failure to follow the covenant.

The value of spiritual leadership, faithfulness to the Word of God, and the consequences of disobedience are lessons to be learned from this difficult time of Israel's history.

### *My Notes:*

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### *What is important to remember in this Lesson?*

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