

*Promised Land 1 Study and Discussion Questions*  
*Lesson Five: Jephthah, Samson, Consequences of Decline - Judges 10 – 21*

Judges 10 – 12: Jephthah

- 1) According to Judges 10:6-16, how does the Lord feel about the sin of His people and about their resulting misery?
  
- 2) Read Judges 11:1, 28-40. Keep in mind Israel's pagan attitudes in Jephthah's day. What adjectives would you use to describe his vow? If you are familiar with the Law of Moses, can you recall anything that should have influenced Jephthah's thinking about making that kind of vow? Was his vow even necessary?
  
- 3) What cultural attitudes and influences do you see creeping into private and public worship of the Lord today?

Judges 13 – 14: Samson

- 4) Read Judges 13:1-5, 24-25 with Numbers 6:1-8, 1 Samuel 1:10-11, 20, Luke 1:13-17, and Acts 18:18. What was the Nazirite vow and who besides Samson was a Nazirite or took a Nazirite vow?
  
- 5) From Judges 14-16, give examples of ways the Lord worked through Israel's deliverer (Judge), Samson, despite Samson's unusual and even questionable choices and methods.
  - a) Judges 14:1-4
  
  - b) Judges 14:10-19
  
  - c) Judges 15:1-8
  
  - d) Judges 15:11-15
  
  - e) Judges 16:4-31

- 6) What does Samson's story teach you about whom the Lord can use to accomplish His purposes? How might this cause you to think differently about current, national and international events and leaders? Give specific examples, without slandering any one particular leader or group of leaders.

Judges 17 – 18: Micah's Priest and the Danites

- 7) What signs of spiritual chaos can you find in the following verses?
- a) Judges 17:3-4 (See Exodus 20:4)
  - b) Judges 17:1, 5 and 10-12 (see Exodus 40:12-15 and Numbers 18:1, 7. Note: Although Aaron and his sons descended from the line of Levi, under the Mosaic law, only Aaron's descendants had the right to be priests, not the Levites in general.)
  - c) Judges 17:13
  - d) Judges 18:1-6, 27, 30-31
- 8) At first, we may find Israel's sins incomprehensible. They were God's own people! What does 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 say about this? What specific warning do you need to take from this period in Israel's history?

Judges 19 – 21: Civil War in Israel

- 9) Read Judges 19. Which verses bear striking resemblance to Genesis 19:4-8? Since the writer of Judges almost certainly assumed his readers would be familiar with Genesis, what point about Israel's moral condition was he making?
- 10) Why (apparently) did the Levite gruesomely cut his dead concubine's body into twelve pieces?

**11)** Judges 20 describes a very dark hour in Israel's history that resulted from the murder of the Levite's concubine (chapter 19).

**a)** According to Judges 20:8-11, what verdict did Israel render upon the tribe of Benjamin?

**b)** Summarize the events that followed (verses 20-21, 24-29, 35-36, and 48).

**12)** According to Judges 21, how did Israel ensure the tribe of Benjamin was not altogether erased?

**13)** Read Judges 17:6 and 21:25. How does this summary of Israel's condition compare to the moral climate in your own culture? What can you personally do to keep such thinking from prevailing among *believers* in your area?

#### Book of Judges

**14)** According to Judges 8:1, 12:1-4, and 20:18-48, what politically significant consequence resulted from Israel's spiritual decline?

**15)** Read Romans 15:5-6. Are you in a relationship or group in which an absence of true spirituality is fostering disunity? If so, what can you do about it?