

# Orwell Bible Church

## Daily Devotional

May 1-7, 2017

P.O. Box 489 – Orwell, OH 44076

www.OrwellBible.org – Email: info@orwellbible.org

(440) 474-3908

***DISCIPLING ALL SO THAT ALL ARE DISCIPLING.***

***CHRIST IS COMING!***

- ☞ In verses 3-4 the Lord did not create evil or tempt with sin but sovereignly used Samson's weakness for His purposes.
- ☞ Samson was greatly used of the Lord *despite* his sinful desires and actions. Should that be an excuse for you, that since God can work despite your sin you can just go ahead and sin?

### Items for Prayer

- Chris, Heidi, Rachel, Isaac, Susanna, Titus, and Seth Seawright- Cambodia— Pray that the Lord will give safety in traveling, grace in speaking opportunities, energy in getting details accomplished while in Cambodia, and wisdom for our survey trip in Myanmar.
- God would bless His Word, answer our prayers, and use our lives and public services for the salvation of souls and the increase and strengthening of His church
- OBC men and women would grow in grace, fulfill their roles and responsibilities in their homes, and minister to our church body by word and example
- We would earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints, Phil 1:27; 1 Tim 6:12; Jude 3

**Sunday, May 7**

Read—

### **Judges 15**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?

- ☞ Note verses 11–13. This shows how sad a state Israel was in, subjected to the Canaanites, and turning over one of their God-given deliverers. Compare Deuteronomy 28:7, 13 & 25, 43-44.

- ☞ What evidence is there in this chapter of Samson's faith?

### Items for Prayer

- Friends in C.A.—Pray for further opportunities to witness to M & S, and A & M
- Sunday Services- Sinners will be convicted and trust Christ
- We would minister to one another for the unity, maturity, protection, and growth of our church (Eph 4:12-16)
- We would exalt the Lord Jesus Christ as we gather in public worship, Acts 2:42–47; 1 Cor 14:24–25; Col. 3:1

### ***Memory Verse for the Week***

Christ will complete our salvation

*Philippians 1:6*

Being confident of this very thing,  
that He who has begun a good work  
in you  
will complete it until the day of  
Jesus Christ.

### ***Learning Christian Truth***

#### **18. What does Satan do?**

Satan blinds unbelievers' eyes,  
tempts us to sin,  
spreads false teaching,  
and is our great enemy.  
1 Cor 7:5; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 6:11–13;  
1 Tim 4:1

### Pray for These Disciple-Making Opportunities—

- God's Word for the Home, Apr 30-May 28
- Young People's Ministry Meeting, Saturday, May 20
- Ladies' Fellowship, Saturday, May 20
- Spring Fellowship, Sunday, May 28
- Regular Sunday and Wednesday services
- Spread of the Word to English and Amish

### Introduction to Judges

A judge was not like our “judges,” making decisions between parties. Rather, they delivered Israel from her enemies. They were not kings but were military, civil, and spiritual leaders. God raised them up for this role, specially equipping (“anointing”) each one to fulfill this responsibility. This “anointing” also rested on Moses (Num 11:17, 25), Joshua (Deut 34:9),

Saul (1 Sam 10:6), and David (1 Sam 16:13). Theologians call this theocratic anointing, a special enablement from God for leading Israel, the kingdom of God on earth mediated through human rulers that God chose and equipped. Theocratic anointing was not the same as salvation, and God could remove it as He chose (cf. 1 Sam 16:13–14; Ps 51:11). They served in different areas of Israel, not over all twelve tribes at the same time. This means that judges sometimes served at the same time as other judges in different areas.

### Purpose and Theme

1. Judges relates Israel's religious and military struggles from the death of Joshua to the dawn of the monarchy (about 350 years). The entire period of the Judges includes the Books of Judges and Ruth and 1 Samuel chapters 1–12.
2. Judges relates Israel's unfaithfulness to their covenant with God. The cycle is described in 2:11–23. Each cycle that Israel experienced took them further downward away from God.
3. Judges demonstrates man's moral depravity by showing what happens when "every man does what is right in his own eyes (21:25).
4. Judges provides a record of God's covenant faithfulness to his people. Although the people sinned, God did not utterly destroy them.
5. Judges shows the need of Israel for a righteous king who would govern them according to the Mosaic Law so that they did what was right in the Lord's eyes, not their own. A God-appointed and directed king would lead them in true worship and living.

Main Point: *Israel's moral and spiritual failures demonstrate their need for a godly king.*

Key Passage: 17:6 and 21:25

### Content and Message

Judges tells of the nature and characteristics of spiritual apostasy in Israel. This was the reason of Israel's trouble, not economic, agricultural, material, military, or some other cause. Moral and spiritual relativism led to anarchy (lawlessness). Judges covers a period from about 1380 B.C. to 1050 B.C.

### Outline of Judges

1. Israel's Failure, 1:1–2:5
2. Israel's Deliverers, 2:6–16:31
3. Israel's Depravity, 17–21

**Friday, May 5**

### Read— **Judges 12**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it "fit" in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Remember the refrain of Judges (17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25). How would having a godly king have helped in this situation?

### **Judges 13**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it "fit" in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Do you remember who the "angel of the Lord" is? (Look at vv. 3, 8, 16, 18–20, 22.)
- ☞ As a Nazirite (v. 5) Manoah's son was dedicated to the Lord his entire life (see Num 6:1–8).
- ☞ What was the source of and purpose for Samson's greatness? Why has God given you different gifts and abilities? What are you doing with them?

### Items for Prayer

- Nathaniel, Katie, Emmaline, Gracyn, and Lauren Pringle- Cincinnati OH—Pray for wisdom to shepherd our people as they navigate dealing with guilt for past failure, the surfacing of pride in their hearts, and making wise decisions in the midst of current crises
- Believers will grow more like Christ and less like the world through the Spirit's help and personal discipline
- Wisdom and provision for a permanent meeting house
- We would establish churches of like faith and practice at home and abroad, Matt 28:19–20; Acts 14:21–23

**Saturday, May 6**

### Read— **Judges 14**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it "fit" in the context and purpose of this book?

Thursday, May 4

Read—  
**Judges 10**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Israel was to be ruled by God, but how did they respond to his rule (v. 6)? How did God respond?
- ☞ How did Israel show their repentance (v. 16)?
- ☞ Note how God’s compassion is expressed in verse 16 and meditate on that.

**Judges 11**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Ammon’s stated reason for fighting Israel (v. 13) is from Numbers 21:24.
- ☞ Regarding Jephthah’s foolish vow (vv. 29ff), consider what this says about the prevailing morality in that day! And yet, Hebrews 11:32!
- ☞ While thinking about these two things, finish this sentence: “Believers can do great things by faith yet...”

Items for Prayer

- Mark and Bekah Perry- Chile—Pray for clarity and wisdom as we speak Spanish
- Financial Stability
- Prayer and financial support of missionaries
- We would equip believers to do the work of the ministry for the maturity, protection, and growth of the body, Eph 4:11–16; Heb 5:12–14

Monday, May 1

Read—  
**Judges 4**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Note verse 7—who is in control?
- ☞ Some say this passage gives the basis for having women in the military, but look carefully at the passage, especially verses 10 and 14. What was the case? Also, was Jael on the field of battle?
- ☞ Who received the credit and glory for victory (v. 23)?

**Judges 5**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Which tribes didn’t participate in the battle? In contrast, how were the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali described (v. 18)?
- ☞ Note verse 31; there are only the Lord’s enemies and those who love Him. Which describes you?
- ☞ What is the point of the figure of speech about those who love the Lord (v. 31)?

Items for Prayer

- Charlie and Bo Frink- New Zealand—Pray that Ariel will regularly attend the Bible studies
- Persecuted Brothers and Sisters in Christ (Heb 13:3)
- God would provide the men we need for our spiritual growth
- We would glorify God as Christ’s church, Rom 16:27; Eph 3:21; Phil 4:20; 1 Tim 1:17; 2 Tim 4:18; Heb 13:21; 1 Pet 4:11; 5:11; 2 Pet 3:18; Jude 24–25; Rev 1:6

**Tuesday, May 2**

Read—  
**Judges 6**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ What was the ministry of the prophet (vv. 7–10)?
- ☞ The “angel of the Lord” is best understood as being an appearance of Christ before His incarnation. Compare v. 11 with verse 14.
- ☞ The various tests that Gideon asked God to do are *not* to be followed in our lives. These demonstrate Gideon’s *lack* of faith, not the *strength* of it!

**Judges 7**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Why did God say that Gideon had too many soldiers?
- ☞ What would the trumpets and torches signify (v. 16)?
- ☞ As you read verses 19ff, keep Leviticus 26:8 & Joshua 23:10 in mind.

Items for Prayer

- Tim, Cristina, Andres, Ruth, and Patricia Goossen- Argentina—Pray for Terry and Carol Thompson and Omar, as they minister the Word in Gualaguaychú
- Peniel Bible Camp
- Those who have trusted Christ would be baptized and join the church
- We would evangelize the lost through personal witnessing and public preaching of the gospel, Acts 1:8; 1 Pet 3:15; Jude 22–23

**Wednesday, May 3**

Read—  
**Judges 8**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Why did Gideon refuse to be king?
- ☞ What was Gideon’s failure?
- ☞ How did Israel fall away from the Lord? What lessons can you learn from this for yourself?

**Judges 9**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ What kind of character did Abimelech have? Remember the main point of this book; how would this account demonstrate the main point of Judges?
- ☞ Note verse 56—this demonstrates that God is the king in Israel. Human rulers would come and go, but God remains.

Items for Prayer

- Daniel, Rosamma, Dany, Merlin, and David Kumar- India—Praise the Lord for the marriage of Dany and Sherlin, and pray that they will continue to seek the Lord
- Wednesday Night Bible Study/Prayer Meeting
- Wisdom for church leadership
- We would edify believers through the systematic teaching of the Bible, public worship, ministry of believers, observance of the ordinances, and the administration of biblical discipline, Acts 2:42–47; 9:31; 1 Cor 14:26