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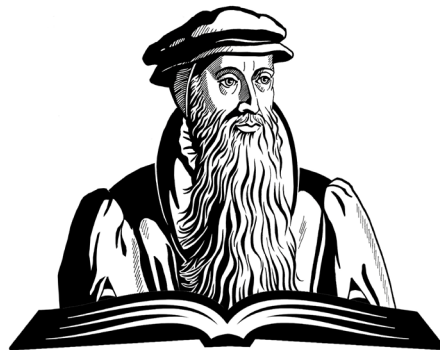
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 48:

The Rise of Judges

Lecture Presenter: Mr. Daniel Van Brugge



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Mr. Daniel Van Brugge is a teacher at Timothy Christian School in Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada.

www.timothychristian.ca

Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

113 LESSONS

77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman

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|--|---|
| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 30. Let My People God |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 31. Deliverance |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People |
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| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
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| 13. Righteous by Faith | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 14. Two Sons | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath |
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| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | 44. A New Generation |
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| 21. God Preserves Jacob | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | 47. A Promise to Rahab |
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| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
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51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
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54. The Kingdom Established
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56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
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60. Thou Art the Man
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72. Ahab's Reign and Death
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74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah
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79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lions' Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
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101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
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111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

Lesson 48

The Rise of Judges The Book of Judges, chapters 1 through 5

Memory Verse

“Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.”

Judges 2:16

Judges—the Setting

In the book of Joshua, we saw how God had appointed Joshua to lead the people across the Jordan river into the land of Canaan. We see Israel conquering much of the land that God had promised to their father Abraham. After reminding the people of all the good that God had done for them, Joshua calls upon the people to fear and serve the Lord:

“Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord” (Josh. 24:14).

After exhorting the people to serve the Lord in “sincerity and in truth,” Joshua calls upon the people to make a choice. What choice did Joshua lay before them? Either to serve the Lord the God of Abraham, or to serve the gods of the land. With great determination, the people chose the Lord: “And the people said unto Joshua, The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey” (Josh. 24:24). We find this at the conclusion of the book of Joshua. The ending of Joshua is quite a beautiful ending. The Lord had delivered the land into the hand of the Israelites and they had willingly promised to serve the Lord.

Sadly, however, the Book of Judges records how the Israelites departed from their promise. The Book of Judges records events that take place after the generation of Joshua has passed away, and a new generation has risen. This new generation did not hold to the oath made by their fathers to serve the Lord. Instead, they:

- Married the sons and daughters of the idolatrous people of the land;
- Built altars to the false gods;
- Worshipped false gods.

Chastisement and Deliverance

Seeing how his people had departed from him, the Lord chastised his people. This chastisement came in the form of oppression from the surrounding peoples. Chastisement is never pleasant, but its purpose is good. The book of Hebrews states, “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and

scourgeth every son whom he receiveth” (Heb. 12:6). Why is chastening necessary? If the Lord loves his people, why does He chasten them at times? It is because the Lord desires their well-being. It is meant to restore a people or a person to the right path.

The chastisement, at least for a time, worked its intended purpose. We say “for a time,” because the Book of Judges records not the name of one judge, but of twelve. Twelve times the Israelites departed from the Lord. Truly, we see how we need him to uphold us every moment.

Being oppressed by the enemy, the children of Israel, cry unto the Lord to deliver them. Hearing their cry, the Lord sent judges to deliver them. Is not the Lord rich in mercy and full of compassion?

Deborah

Deborah is not the first judge to deliver Israel from the hand of the enemy—she is the fourth. You can read of the first three judges—Othniel, Ehud and Shamgar—in chapter 3 of Judges. However, Deborah stands out from other judges for several reasons:

- She is the only woman listed among the judges.
- More space is dedicated in Scripture to the time she was judge than those before her.
- Her song, regarding the deliverance of Israel is recorded in chapter 5.

Who was Deborah? She was a “prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth” (Judg. 4:4). She was looked up to, wise and well-respected. The people “came up to her for judgment” (Judg. 4:5)? It was Deborah that the Lord chose to deliver Israel from the hand of Jabin, the king of Canaan (Judg. 4:2), who had oppressed Israel for twenty years (Judg. 4:3). Judges 5 records the wonderful deliverance of the Lord in Deborah’s song.

Barak and Jael

Deborah, while appointed a judge, would not actually fight Jabin king of Canaan. Deborah, told Barak that the Lord had commanded that he, with ten thousand men, should go and fight the armies of Canaan. Barak had the faithful promise of the Word of the Lord. Didn’t the Lord say, “I will deliver him into thine hand” (Judg. 4:7)? The Word of the Lord is faithful and sharper than any two-edged sword. Barak should have held fast to the promise of God. Sadly, however, it was not enough. Barak placed a condition upon his service. He would only go if Deborah would accompany him: “If thou wilt go with me, then I will go” (Judg.4:8).

Barak would lead the army and gain the victory—Canaan will be defeated. However, for not trusting in the Word of the Lord, and the God whose words they were, Barak would not gain the great victory of defeating Jabin’s most feared captain, Sisera—Sisera who commanded the nine hundred chariots of iron. This honor would not be Barak’s, but would belong to another: “notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the LORD shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman” (Judg. 4:9).

Who was this woman, whose name would live on in song? Who was this woman, whose name would be honored in continual remembrance? Jael, the wife of Heber: “Blessed above women shall Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be, blessed shall she be above women in the tent” (Judg. 5:24).

Questions

Judges 2

1. Having heard the word of the angel of the LORD, the Israelites wept and built an altar at _____, where they offered a sacrifice.

2. What are the names of the two gods that the Israelites began to worship when they forsook the Lord?

Judges 3

3. The anger of the Lord was kindled against the Israelites for their forsaking the covenant. For this, they were put under the rule of Chushan-rishathaim, king of _____ for eight years.

4. The Lord raised up _____ the son of Kenaz, Caleb's youngest brother to deliver Israel from Chushan-rishathaim.

5. After the death of Othniel, the children of Israel did "evil again in the sight of the LORD." Because of their departing from the Lord, Israel served _____ king of Moab for eighteen years.

6. After eighteen years, who was it that delivered Israel from the king of Moab?
 - a. Gera
 - b. Kenaz
 - c. Ehud
 - d. Manasseh

7. All of the following are true concerning Shamgar, except:
 - a. He was the son of Anath.
 - b. He delivered Israel before Ehud.
 - c. He slew the enemy with an ox goad.
 - d. He delivered Israel from the Philistines.

Judges 4

8. Match the person with the description.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| _____ Deborah | a. King of Canaan who reigned in Hazor. He would oppress Israel for twenty years. |
| _____ Jael | b. The man called by Deborah, the son of Abinoam, who was to lead 10,000 men into battle against the Canaanites. |
| _____ Jabin | c. The captain of the Canaanite army who commanded nine hundred chariots of iron. |
| _____ Heber | d. A prophetess, she was chosen to judge Israel during its deliverance from Jabin, the king of Canaan. |
| _____ Sisera | e. Because of Barak's placing a condition on going up to fight Canaan, she would receive the honor of killing Israel's most dreaded enemy, the captain of the nine hundred chariots of iron. |
| _____ Barak | f. He was a Kenite, of the children of Hobab, the father-in-law of Moses, and the husband of Jael. |

Discussions

1. Reflecting upon Judges 2:1, explain why the oppression found in the Book of Judges came upon Israel.

2. After reading Judges 2:14–16, explain why the sending of judges was an undeserved mercy. Explain how it is evident that Israel was not grateful for God's mercy in sending judges.

3. In 2 Corinthians 6:14, Paul says, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?” Read Judges 3:5–7, and tell why Paul’s words are instructive.

4. Barak was chosen as the instrument to deliver Israel from Jabin, the king of Canaan. However, he would not have the honor of delivering Israel from his most dreaded captain, Sisera. Explain why this honor was taken away from him. What instruction may we glean from this?

5. Both Jael and Mary, the mother of Jesus are called “blessed.” Compare the reasons why they were referred to as blessed. Explain why Jael is a type of Mary. Compare Judges 5:24 and Luke 1:42.
