



The Judges

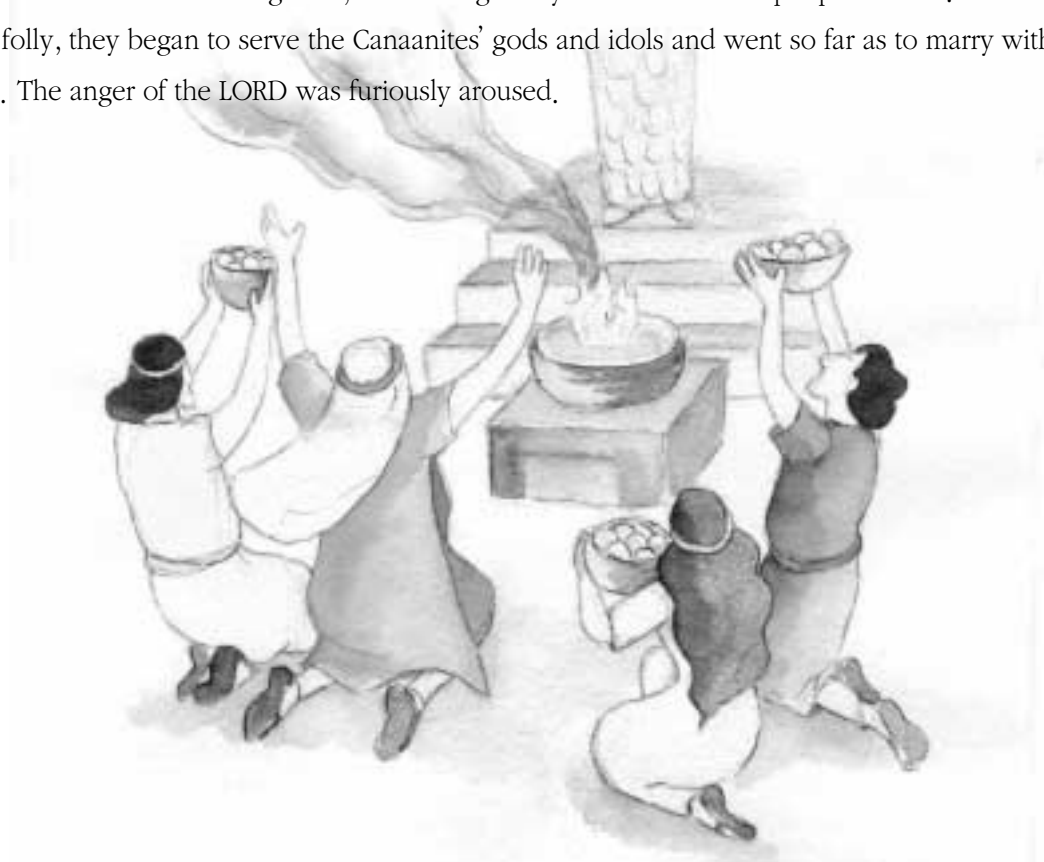
Who Saved Israel

Judges 2-3

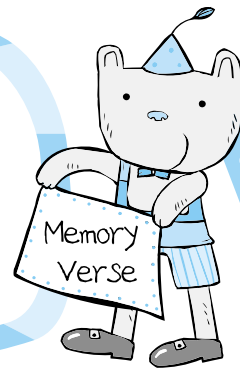
The LORD had spoken to Israel through Joshua, saying,

“Strike down the Canaanites. Utterly destroy all the people and do not mingle with them.”

Though Joshua and the people of Israel fought many of the Canaanites, they had not yet defeated all of them. But now Joshua was about to die, so the task was handed down to the rest of Israel to complete. After Joshua died, though, the generation of Israelites that fought with Joshua and knew the work of the LORD had also passed away. Now, Israel was consisted of a generation who did not know God and did not know what He had done for Israel. Israel still had to fight off the Canaanites from their promised land. However, they did not completely drive them out, but rather began to mingle with them. They quickly started to forget and abandon the LORD altogether, even though they were the chosen people of God. So in their folly, they began to serve the Canaanites' gods and idols and went so far as to marry with them. The anger of the LORD was furiously aroused.



“Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.” (Judges 2:16)



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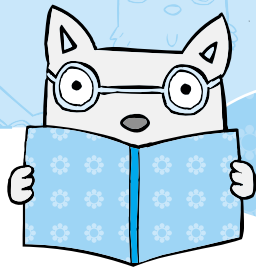
God saw the sins of Israel and could not bear it with patience anymore. Because they transgressed and disobeyed Him, the LORD had decided to punish the Israelites through the neighboring nations. Thus, enemy lands started to come up against Israel and make them their slaves, putting them through suffering and sorrow for many years. Because of the painful life they were now living, the Israelites cried out to the LORD, saying

“God, we have done wrong. Please forgive us and save us from these people.”

So God raised up judges who could deliver them out of the hands of their enemies through the power of God.

Whenever a judge was alive and in power, the people of Israel lived peaceful lives in harmony with God. But after the judge would die, Israel turned away and did evil in the sight of the Lord, which led them to a life of anguish and suffering by the surrounding nations again. Then they would cry out again to the Lord, who would then send another judge to rescue them from their enemies.





Today's Study

The Sin of Israel

“Chastisement” means “discipline,” which is punishing to correct or train someone.

1. What did the children of Israel do wrong? Look at the pictures below and answer.



2. What would happen to the nation of Israel when they sinned?

The Judges Who Saved Israel

1. When the children of Israel cried out to God, through whom did God save them?

2. God sent Israel the judges. Whom did God send for us, who were destined to go to hell?

“ This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that came into the world to sinners, of whom I am chief.” (1 Timothy 1:15)



Today's Lesson

The Chastisement of God

Kyung, a boy in the fourth-grade Sunday school class, practiced Taekwondo for almost all his life. Compared to the other kids in his grade, he was an expert in front kicks, sidekicks, punches, and many other Taekwondo fighting techniques. He was actually good enough to win awards in sparring competitions. All this was something Kyung could take much pride in.

Because he was so good, Kyung was well known among his friends as a fighter. But this was only because he would kick his friends whenever they made mistakes, no matter how small and trivial. His teachers started to warn him to stop doing that anymore, and his mom would even tell him to stop, but he seemed to have a hard time listening. One day, Kyung got angry at his friend for a mistake and kicked him. But unlike other times, Kyung kicked his friend in a way that broke his own leg! He went to the hospital and got a cast on his leg. Now he was thinking,

Ow, this is a pain.
It doesn't just hurt, I
can't even move!
What did I do to end
up like this?

Oh! It's because God...



1. What is it that Kyung realized? Complete the sentence in the balloon above.

2. What does God want you to do if you receive chastisement?

Just as our parents discipline us because they love us, God chastises us because He loves us.

“ But if you are without _____, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.” (Hebrews 12:8)

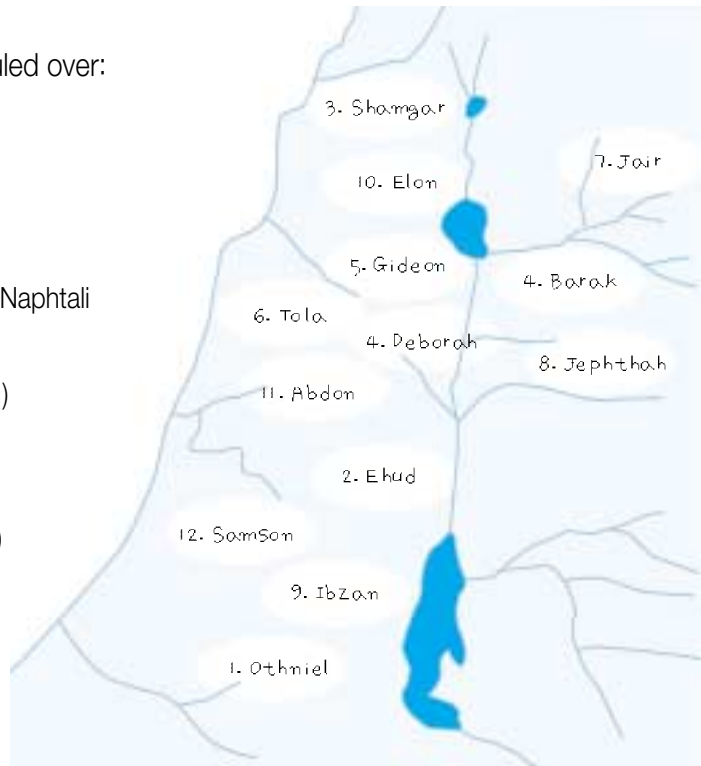


Did you know?

The “Judges,” which comes from “to pass judgment” and “to rule over” in Hebrew, were leaders that ruled Israel between the time the Israelites entered the land of Canaan to the time the first king of Israel was raised. They governed the people by holding courts and by leading the army during times of war.

Here are the regions the judges ruled over:

1. Othniel of Judah (Judges 3:9)
2. Ehud of Benjamin (Judges 3:15)
3. Shamgar (Judges 3:31)
4. Deborah of Ephraim and Barak of Naphtali (Judges 4:4-6)
5. Gideon of Manasseh (Judges 6:11)
6. Tola of Issachar (Judges 10:1)
7. Jair of Gilead (Judges 10:3)
8. Jephthah of Gilead (Judges 11:11)
9. Ibzan of Bethlehem (Judges 12:8)
10. Elon of Zebulun (Judges 12:11)
11. Abdon of Abarim (Judges 12:13)
12. Samson of Dan (Judges 15:20)



Teacher

parents