

JOSHUA 24- JUDGES 5

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

Joshua ends with a review of Israel's history and reminders of the faithfulness of God. God has been so good to His people and gave them the Land by His power alone, and not theirs. Joshua concludes with a famous verse saying, "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). Serving the one true God is where the Israelites will experience blessing, but serving false gods will lead to death. The Israelites vowed to not worship any other false gods, but Joshua says "you will not be able to do this." Joshua was right, and we see the consequences for that in the book of Judges.

The book of Judges begins with a problem. Joshua has passed away and he has not raised up a leader to replace him. As a result, Judges is marked by a lot of failure for the Israelites as they lack leadership, turn from God, and do what is evil in the eyes of the Lord. Israel enters into these cycles of sin over and over again in this book. The cycles typically look like this: Israel sins, they become enslaved to foreign nations as a result of their sin, they ask God for help, God raises up a judge to deliver them, and then there is a period of silence. A **judge** in the book of Judges is not someone with a robe and a gavel in a courthouse. A judge was a military and political leader for the people.

As Judges begins, they ask the Lord who would be the one to lead them in the fight against the Canaanites. The Lord answers saying Judah would be the one to lead. Judah then pulls Simeon into it. Judah rebels and wants to do it his way, instead of trusting that God's way is best. It then tells us about a series of other failures that took place, and that the angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal and Bochim to rebuke the Israelites for not tearing down altars to false gods. This is symbolic and representative of the storyline for the book. Gilgal is considered a place of victory and remembrance where the Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry land and set up stones as a reminder of God's greatness. Bochim means "the place of weepers." So the Israelites went from a place of victory in Joshua to a place of weeping in Judges through patterns of sin and judgment. The first three judges are: Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar. We then get to judge Deborah, who is one of the most famous females in the Bible, and a glimmer of hope. Deborah trusts God, obeys Him, and gives glory to Him alone. She is one of the few examples of good we can follow throughout this book!

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are to serve God alone and no other false “gods”
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete conquests • Joshua’s death • First three judges • Deborah and Barak
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua 24:15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” • Judges 2:10-11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals.” • Judges 3:7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord; they forgot the Lord their God and served the Baals and the Asherahs.”
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A judge was a military and political leader for the people

Reflection Questions

1.	What did Joshua warn the Israelites against?
2.	What is the book of Judges marked by?
3.	What was a judge? What did they do?
4.	What do we learn from Deborah?