



FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,
DECLARES THE LORD.

PLANS TO PROSPER YOU
AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS
TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A
FUTURE. THEN YOU WILL CALL
UPON ME AND COME AND
PRAY TO ME, AND I WILL LISTEN
TO YOU. YOU WILL SEEK ME AND
FIND ME WHEN YOU SEEK ME
WITH ALL YOUR HEART.

*The Kings + Prophets
of Israel*

TEACHER NOTES FOR CHAPTER 2 THE KINGS & PROPHETS OF ISRAEL

PAGE	23
THEME	DARKNESS DAWNS: THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL
HOMEWORK BIBLE READING	JUDGES 19-21
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OVERVIEW

This chapter is technically not dealing with events in the period of Kings, however it focuses on the darkness that enveloped Israel prior to the anointing of their first King, Saul. It is the writer of Judges who reminds the reader of the Bible that 'in those days Israel had no king, everyone did what was right in their own eyes'.

The chapter begins by focusing on how quickly Israel forgot about God after entering the Promised Land and how catastrophic that was for the morality and direction of the nation. Students are encouraged to see that the entire book of Judges tells the same story over and over again. That is, Israel rebel against God, he intervenes by raising up a nation to bring conflict to them, Israel turn back to God who then raises up a Judge to deliver them.

As the book of Judges progresses forward, the depravity of the Israelites grows. This is most clearly evident in the final story of the book which is the major focus of this chapter. The account is gruesome and confronting but is in the Bible to allow us to see just how bad things had become for this nation who were meant to be a light to the world.

OUR TIPS

Students should be warned about the graphic nature of the reading for this lesson. Even though this aspect of the Judges chapters is dealt with after the preliminary aspects of the period, you may find that students want to talk about it first thing upon their return to class. It is important that we don't water down what happened and that we explain to students that the Bible is not recording this event to support what happened but rather to give us an honest account of where Israel had slid to in their relationship with God.

As you discuss the reading and content of the chapter with students, this is a great opportunity to talk about the reality of the human condition as presented to us in the Bible. Throughout this course they will see that even the great heroes of the Bible are flawed individuals and the Bible never allows you to be satisfied until the one to whom the entire story is pointing comes.

As the account of the Levite and Concubine is unpacked, the chapter takes the students to the point where they are able to see that even the solution that the Israelites try to come up with after the woman is killed and chopped into pieces is a flawed solution. That is, Judges ends with this sense of brokenness and darkness. We want students to see that when the writer ended the book by stating that Israel had no king they were pointing out two things. 1) Israel did have a king...God & 2) This nation needs a leader who will walk in the ways of God almighty, live by his wisdom and help these people get back on track.

As this will be the second lesson that you have taught with the students it would be good to check the student's homework reading at the start of the lesson and implement strategies that you have thought of to help students who have not done the reading (See <http://biblicalturningpoints.com.au/curriculumTips.php>)

YOUR TIPS

We would love to hear what you have learnt after teaching this chapter. If you have tips that you are happy for us to freely share with other teachers using this course please let us know by emailing them through to us at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

COMMON QUESTIONS STUDENTS ASK

- Why did the owner of the house offer his own family to the raging mob?
- What is a concubine?
- Why did the Benjamites refuse to give up the men who committed the crime?

We would love to hear what questions students are asking in response to the content of this chapter. Please let us know at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU TEACH THIS CHAPTER

- Kings and Prophets Visual aid

If you know of any websites or resources that would assist teachers with bringing this chapter to life please let us know at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

ANSWERS FOR CHAPTER 2

Answers have been provided for questions where we believe clarification may be needed or where an activity requires the teacher to have the correct answer before the students commence the activity.

If you have any questions about an activity not written up in the following notes, please contact us at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

CHAPTER 2

Answers have been provided for questions where we believe clarification may be needed or where an activity requires the teacher to have the correct answer before the students commence the activity.

p. 26 Activity

The generation who forgot

Deuteronomy 4:9-10

Only be careful and watch yourselves closely so that you do not **forget** the things ... as long as you live. **Teach** them to your children and to their children after them. **Remember** the day ...

Deuteronomy 11:16-21

Be **careful**, or you will be **enticed** to turn away... the Lord is giving you. **Fix** these words of mine in your **hearts** and **minds**; tie them as symbols on your **hands** and bind them on your foreheads. **Teach** them to your children, **talking** about them when you sit at **home** and when you walk along the road, when you **lie** down and when you **get** up. Write them on the **doorframes** of your houses...

p. 27 Activity

The next generation ignore God's instructions from Deuteronomy

Read Judges 2:10-13

Does the writer of Judges lay blame regarding the generation who grew up not knowing God? If so, to who or what?

Without saying it explicitly, the writer indicates that the blame lies with the previous generation. The parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and other family and community members who did not ensure the children and young people were taught about God and events of the past.

In light of what we have already seen regarding Israel's commission to drive out the Canaanites, what is significant about the narrator's account of the Israelite's idolatrous worship?

The Israelites worship the very same gods and idols which God had commanded them to remove from the land, and to remove all the people who worshipped them.

p. 28 Activity

Israel are handed over to raiders

Why do you think God caused the other nations to attack and defeat Israel?

God had clearly instructed Israel to drive out the nations who did not worship him, and to remove the idols. He also clearly told the Israelites what the consequences of disobedience would be.

What do these verses (Judges 2:14-15) tell us about God and the way he deals with his chosen nation?

God now shows the Israelites that he is true to his word, and teaches them that he does not tolerate idolatry or disobedience. The first commandment they were given was to have no gods before him!

p. 29 Activity **“Then the Lord raised up Judges”**

What was the role of a judge?

- To lead the people
- To help make decisions
- To save the people from the raiders

How did Israel respond to the judges?

Initially, they did not listen to them until they needed deliverance. The people returned to their corrupt ways each time a judge died.

p. 31 Activity

- 1 Othniel
- 2 Ehud
- 3 Shamagar
- 4 Deborah
- 5 Gideon

Judges of Israel

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|----|--------|
| 6 | Abimelech | 11 | Elon |
| 7 | Tola | 12 | Abdon |
| 8 | Jair | 13 | Samson |
| 9 | Jephthah | 14 | Eli |
| 10 | Ibzan | 15 | Samuel |

p. 33 Activity **Chop chop (Judges 19-21)**

What does the Levite’s response to his concubine’s death reveal about the moral corruption of the nation?

He recognised that for the people of Israel to come and deal with this situation they would need to be shocked into doing it. He knew that if he simply told them what had occurred nothing would be done.

What should have happened after the crime was committed?

The Benjamite people should have dealt with the perpetrators of this crime, not to mention the rest of the nation.

p. 35 Activity

Wives for the Benjamites (Judges 21)

Explain the problem which leads the Israelites to go and 'find' wives for the surviving men of Benjamin?

The Benjamites refused to hand over the accused criminals, so the rest of the Israelites fought against them and 25,000 Benjamite men were killed. 600 fled into the desert. The towns were all put to the sword – all the women and children were killed.

What solution do they come up with?

They took 400 virgins from Jabesh Gilead.

The Benjamites carried off the girls of Shiloh while they were dancing.

Do you think this was a godly solution? Explain.

The Israelites made the same mistake as the Benjamites – they put tribal loyalties before loyalty to God and obedience of his commands. A new series of crimes are committed against a larger group of women as they are forced to marry men against their will.

How else could the Israelites have dealt with the problem?

The Israelites could have provided wives from their own tribes, an equal number from each of the other tribes.