

## Psalm 69, Judges 10-15 (#50) Revised 2022

**Psalm 69**— This song of David is set to a popular tune of the day. Numerous messianic verses are found here. 1. *How many messianic verses can you find?* 2. *Why is David being ridiculed by the people?* (vv. 7, 9-12. See also 2 Samuel 7:2, 13 & 1 Kings 6:1)

**Judges 10**— The book of Judges lists Tola and Jair as judges without describing anything they did, although they judged for 23 and 22 years respectively, and lived on the opposite sides of the Jordan River (vv. 1-5). The rest of the chapter relates again the evil Israel did by worshiping the gods of the people in the land. God's anger burned against Israel so He sent the Philistines and the Ammonites to judge them for 18 years. In their pain and distress, they cry out to the Lord, and He relates to them a history of how He has delivered them in the past. However, the Lord tells them that since they didn't learn from history, they need to cry out to the gods they had chosen to deliver them. Finally, God delivers them through a man by the name of Jephthah (vv. 6-18). *This is the sixth cycle of sin, suffering, sorrow, and salvation. What did Israel do in this chapter to demonstrate their repentance?*

**Judges 11**— After eighteen years of oppression by the Ammonites, Israel repents and puts away their foreign gods and chooses Jephthah as their leader in the presence of the Lord at Mizpah (vv. 1-11). Jephthah sent a diplomatic delegation to the king of the Ammonites to present clear historical reasons why the land of Gilead does not belong to the Ammonites, but to Israel. Therefore, he points out that there was no just reason why their land should be taken from them (vv. 12-28). Since the king of the Ammonites would not listen to Jephthah, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and he led the army of Gilead to not only bring freedom to their own land but also to decisively defeat twenty cities of Ammon with a great slaughter (vv.29-33). Jephthah gave a rash vow to the Lord that if he returns in peace, whatever comes out of the doors of his house will belong to the Lord, and he will offer it as a burnt offering. His only daughter came out of the doors of his house and caused great consternation to Jephthah and the rest of Israel (vv. 34-40). *Did Jephthah actually offer his only child as a burnt offering to the Lord? Why or why not? Extra: Should we make vows to God? Explain.*

**Judges 12**— As with Gideon (8:1-3), the Ephraimites complain to Jephthah that they have been left out and were not called by Jephthah to fight against the Ammonites. Civil war erupted and Jephthah and the Gileadites killed 42,000 soldiers of Ephraim (vv. 1-7). The chapter ends by mentioning three minor judges; Ibzan who judged for seven years, Elon who judged for ten years, and Abdon who judged for eight years (vv. 8-15). *What kind of test did the Gileadites give to the fugitives who were crossing the Jordan River to find out if they were from Ephraim or not? What is the meaning today of the word “shibboleth”?*

**Judges 13**— Since Israel did evil, the Lord handed them over to the Philistines for 40 years. God calls Zorah and Manoah to give birth to a son who will be a Nazarite from birth and will begin to deliver Israel from the power of the Philistines (vv. 1-5). The Angel of the Lord re-appears to both Zorah and Manoah and confirms Manoah’s preparation for the conception and birth of Samson as well as his mission to the Philistines. As Samson grew, the Spirit of the Lord directed him to the work He called him to do (vv. 6-25). *Samson was called to a lifelong vow to be a Nazarite. Explain the purpose and prohibitions of the Nazarite.*

**Judges 14**— Against his parent’s desires, Samson wanted them to arrange a marriage to a Philistine woman in Timnah. On the way to Timnah, a lion attacked Samson which he easily killed. Upon returning to Timnah to marry the Philistine woman, he found honey in the lion’s carcass, ate the honey, and gave it to his parents. Out of this experience, Samson challenged the 30 Philistine men who came to his wedding to a bet to see if they would be able to solve his riddle. The men threatened Samson’s new wife and family, so she nagged Samson until he finally gave in and told her the answer. Losing the bet, Samson killed 30 men, stripped them of their clothes, and gave the clothes to the 30 men who solved the riddle at the wedding. *What words and actions do you see in the life of Samson in this chapter that indicates sin and compromise?*

**Judges 15**— To take revenge upon his wife’s father for giving her away to another man, Samson catches 300 foxes, ties them tail to tail, and sends them out with torches between their tails to destroy the wheat harvest of the Philistines (vv. 1-5). Then the Philistines respond to Samson’s destruction by burning his wife and father-in-law to death and coming after him. After the Israelites handed Samson over to the Philistines, Samson easily breaks the ropes that bound him, and then retaliates and kills 1000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey (vv. 6-17). Finally, to keep him from dying of thirst, God miraculously provides water for Samson (vv. 18-20). *Explain where we see the cycle of revenge in this chapter? What had God set up in Israel so that there would not be a cycle of revenge?*

Sources for summary and questions: 1. Serendipity Bible for Groups- c. 1988 Littleton, CO. 2. MacArthur Study Bible, c. 1997 Thomas Nelson, Inc. 3. Life Application Bible, c. 1988 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 4. The Complete Bible Companion, c. 2014 Barbour Publishing, Inc., Uhrichsville, OH. 5. ESV Study Bible, c. 2008 Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL. 6. The World Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Word Inc. Waco, TX. 7. The Quest Study Bible, c. 1994 Zondervan Publishing & Christianity Today, Grand Rapids, MI & Wheaton, IL. 8. The Transformation Study Bible, c. 2009, David C. Cook. 9. Halley’s Bible Handbook, c. 2000, Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI. 10. 500 Questions & Answers from the Bible, c. 2006, Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, OH. 11. Understanding the Bible c. 2000 Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN. 12. Homan Bible Handbook, c. 1992 Homan Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 13. Moody Bible Commentary, c. 2014 Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL.

### Psalm 70-71, Judges 16-21 (#51) Revised 2022

**Psalm 70** — This psalm is an urgent request for God to deliver David from his enemies quickly. *What justification does David offer for requesting God's deliverance?*

**Psalm 71** — In this psalm we have the perspective of an aging psalmist recounting God's steadfast love and protection. *In what ways has God shown Himself to be faithful to you?*

**Judges 16**— After being with a prostitute in Gaza, he rips apart the city gates and leaves (vv. 1-3). Samson falls in love with the Philistine woman Delilah who entices him to tell her where the secret of his strength lies. After a series of tests to find out where he got his strength, Samson's head is shaved, his strength is gone, and he is taken captive by the Philistines who gouge out his eyes and forces him to grind grain in prison (vv. 4-22). Finally, when his hair began to grow again, he was brought to the temple of Dagon where he was to entertain the rulers of the Philistines. In one last cry of help to God, he pulls down the central pillars of the temple and kills more in his death than when he was living (vv. 23-31). *Samson was a man with huge potential, but at his life's end, he fell so far short of what he could have accomplished. As you review the life of Samson, what caused this, and what lessons can we learn from him so that we don't have to live a life of regret?*

**Judges 17**— In a clear violation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment, Micah returns the 1100 pieces of silver (28 lbs.) taken from his mother, and she uses 200 pieces to make an ephod and household idols. One of his sons was installed as a priest for the family. A wandering Levite from Bethlehem passes by Micah's home and is invited to stay so that he became the personal priest of the family. *In what ways did Micah and the Levite violate the Law of Moses?*

**Judges 18**— Scouts from the tribe of Dan search out new territory since they were short of land. As they travel to spy out Laish, they pass by the house and shrine of Micah. After verifying the spacious land and the unsuspecting people of Laish, 600-armed men head to Laish to take the city, but pass by the house of Micah and take his images and the Levite priest to be the priest of the tribe of Dan. After a confrontation with Micah, the men of Dan go and conquer Laish and change the name of the city to Dan. *How was the attack on the city of Laish clearly a violation of the law? See Deuteronomy 20:10.*

**Judges 19**— “These verses recount one of the most sordid stories in the Bible. Rape, murder, and callous indifference lead to the death of a woman and, eventually, to civil war.” #5 p. 469 After previously leaving him for her father’s house in Bethlehem, a Levite convinces his concubine (secondary wife) to return with him to Ephraim. Stopping in Gibeah for the night, an older man offers hospitality, but in order to avoid the Levite being raped by the men, he offers his concubine to the men instead. In the morning the concubine is found completely abused and dead. The man was outraged and carved up her body into twelve pieces, and sent them to all the tribes of Israel. *What is the significance of this tragic story and of this time in the history of the Judges? How does this story relate to our present culture? #3 p. 381.*

**Judges 20**— The whole of Israel was appropriately outraged by the conduct of the perverted men and came together to have the city of Gibeah and the tribe of Benjamin give over the worthless fellows to be killed. Upon refusal to give up the offenders, civil war ensued and thousands of Israelites died, and only 600 men are left in the tribe of Benjamin. *What was the reaction of the Benjamites when the rest of Israel demanded they surrender the evil offenders? What motivated them to act that way? EXTRA: Why did it seem necessary for Israel to lose 40,000 soldiers before they finally won the battle against Benjamin? See verses 19 to 28.*

**Judges 21**— Since the tribes of Israel vowed not to give their daughters in marriage to anyone in the tribe of Benjamin, there are only 600 men of Benjamin left and no wives available to them to propagate the tribe of Benjamin. Since the city of Jabesh-Gilead did not go to war as they had been commanded to do, Israel killed everyone in the city except for 400 virgins who were saved to become wives for the men of Benjamin. As was planned by the other tribes, Benjamites stole another 200 virgins at the festival of Shiloh. *As you read this horrific story in chapters 19-21, what do you find of redeeming value?*

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## Psalm 72, I Samuel 1-7 (#52) Revised 2022

**Psalm 72** — This is a prayer written for Solomon's coronation which also looks forward to the righteous reign of the Messiah. *Consider verses 7, 11-14, and 17. Who do these refer to?*

**I Samuel**— Originally the books of I and II Samuel were one book with part of it written by Samuel (I Samuel 1-24), and the rest authored by the prophets Nathan and Gad (see I Chronicles 29:29). I Samuel covers about 100 years (from 1105 BC to 1005 BC) and tells of the lives of Eli (and sons), Samuel, Saul, and David. Samuel was the last and greatest judge who was called on by God (after pleas from the Israelites) to anoint the first king. In this book of transition from Theocracy (God's rule) to Monarchy (king's rule), from Saul's anointing as king to the ascendancy and persecution of David, we vividly see the lives and often flawed characters of chosen leaders in the way they relate to God and His commands. No book in the Old Testament stresses more the importance of mothers in the life of God's plan for His people than we see in the story of Hannah.

**I Samuel 1**— The book opens with the oft repeated struggle of infertility in the life of a couple. The added drama comes because of Elkanah's second wife who continually taunts Hannah because of her barrenness. While in the town of Shiloh at one of the annual feasts, Hannah makes a vow to God that if He gives her a son, she will give him back to God to serve Him all of his life (vv. 1-18). Samuel is born and is taken to the Lord's house in Shiloh to stay after he had been weaned by Hannah (vv. 19-28). *What lessons were taught us in the life of Hannah in this chapter? EXTRA: Verse 1 says that Elkanah, Samuel's father, was an Ephraimite. If Samuel was from the tribe of Ephraim, why did Samuel offer sacrifices which only those from the tribe of Levi are authorized to do? See I Chronicles 6:27, 28, I Samuel 7:9.*

**I Samuel 2**— After receiving the blessing of her son Samuel who she gave back to the Lord, Hannah offers a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord (vv. 1-11). Although not a wicked man himself, the sons of Eli were very evil and would in due time be slain in battle for their wrongdoing. God rewarded Hannah and Elkanah for offering Samuel to serve in the Lord's house by giving them five more children. As his sons did more and more evil, Eli rebuked them but did not remove them as priests (vv. 12-26). The man of God places a curse on the line of Eli for allowing his sons, Hophni and Phinehas, to do

extreme evil in the sight of God and Israel (vv. 27-36). *Who is (1) “the faithful priest” and who is (2) my “anointed one” mentioned in verse 35? I Kings 1:7-8, 2:26-35, Ezekiel 44:15 and Numbers 25:10-13.*

**I Samuel 3**— After the third time God called Samuel, he finally understood that it was the Lord calling him, not Eli. The Lord reveals to Samuel His judgment on the wickedness of the family of Eli which Samuel then shares to Eli because of his insistence. As Samuel grew, all of Israel understood that he was a great prophet. *Does God speak to us today like he spoke to Samuel (vv. 10)? In what ways has God spoken to you? EXTRA: What did the scripture mean when it said that Samuel’s words “did not fall to the ground”? Verse 19.*

**I Samuel 4**— This was a dark chapter in the history of Israel where the Ark of the Covenant is captured by the Philistines and 30,000 men die in battle, including Eli and his two sons. After losing 4000 men in the first battle, the Israelites took the Ark of the Covenant from Shiloh to the battlefield, believing that it would assure them of victory. Yahweh, the righteous one, had to judge the wickedness of Hophni and Phinehas. This chapter closes with the wife of Phinehas dying in labor while having a son who she names Ichabod, which means the “glory has departed.” *What was the reasoning behind taking the Ark of the Covenant into battle? Do professed Christians do something similar today? See also Matthew 4:5-7.*

**I Samuel 5**— After capturing the Ark of the Covenant, the Philistines took it into the temple of Dagon and placed it next to his statue to honor Dagon for the victory. God shows His superiority over Dagon in the temple. As the Ark of the Covenant is passed from the temple in Ashdod to Ekron and then Gath, the hand of God’s judgment was against the people of the cities to which the ark had been taken. *How were the Philistines mistaken in their interpretation of why they were victorious over Israel and their capture of the Ark of the Covenant?*



**I Samuel 6**— After seven months of plagues and suffering because of having the Ark of the Covenant, the Philistines devised a plan to return the Ark to Israel and to see if they truly had been judged by Israel’s God. When the two milk cows brought the Ark on a cart directly to Beth-shemesh, they learned not to trifle with the God of Israel. When the Ark arrived at Beth-shemesh, a Levitical city, there was great rejoicing with sacrifices unto Yahweh. Showing disrespect for God by looking into the Ark, seventy men were struck down. The Ark of the Covenant was placed in the house of Abinadab in Kiriath-jearim until it was taken by David to Jerusalem about a hundred years later. *What lesson did the city of Beth-shemesh learn about Yahweh because of deaths of the seventy men?*

**I Samuel 7**— During the time of Samuel’s leadership, Israel began to seek the Lord and get rid of the foreign gods and Ashtoreths. All Israel gathered at Mizpah to fast and confess their sins. Because of the huge gathering, the Philistines wanted to squelch any idea of unity and so their whole army came to fight the Israelites. As the two armies engaged in battle, God thundered against the Philistines and threw them into great confusion. Samuel set up a large stone he calls “Ebenezer” because of the great victory God has given them. *Why were the years Samuel judged Israel a good era in the history of Israel? EXTRA: What was the significance of Samuel setting up a stone and calling it “Ebenezer?”*

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