

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

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1:1-7

Background: After Moses brought the Israelites out of Egypt, Joshua was the leader that brought them into the land that Yahweh had promised them. After the death of Joshua, the tribes of Israel began to fight against the Canaanites that remained in the land.

Adoni-Bezek was a king over the people the Israelites were fighting in 1:1-7.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh said that Judah would lead the people of Israel to fight against the Canaanites. [1:1-2]
- ☐ The men of Simeon fought alongside the men of Judah, and they defeated both the Canaanites and the Perizzites. [1:3-4]
- ☐ Adoni-Bezek was captured. The men of Judah and Simeon cut off his big toes and thumbs. [1:5-6]
- ☐ Adoni-Bezek was taken to Jerusalem, where he died. [1:7]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the people of Israel ask Yahweh after the death of Joshua? [1:1]
The people asked Yahweh who would first fight the Canaanites for them.
2. Which tribe did Yahweh say would attack the Canaanites? [1:2]
Yahweh said the tribe of Judah would attack.
3. What did the men of Judah ask the men of Simeon to do? [1:3]
The men of Judah asked the men of Simeon to join them in the fight against the Canaanites.
4. What happened when the men of Judah attacked the Canaanites? [1:4]
Yahweh gave the men of Judah victory over the Canaanites. They killed ten thousand of the Canaanites.
5. What did the men of Judah do when they caught Adoni-Bezek? [1:6]
The men of Judah cut off his big toes and thumbs.
6. What was Adoni-Bezek's response when his big toes and thumbs were cut off? [1:7]
Adoni-Bezek said, "As I have done, even so God has done to me."
7. Where did the men of Judah take Adoni-Bezek? [1:7]
They took him to Jerusalem, and he died there.

Comment Section:

1:16-26

Background: In 1:8-15, the men of Judah continued to attack and defeat the Canaanites in the land. They also took the city of Jerusalem.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The descendants of Moses' father-in-law went to live with the people of Judah. [1:16]
- ☐ The people of Judah continued fighting and defeating the Canaanites. [1:17-18]
- ☐ Judah was not able to drive out people from the plains because they had iron chariots. [1:19]
- ☐ Caleb drove out the people of Hebron, but the people of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites. [1:20-21]
- ☐ The house of Joseph sent spies to Bethel, and a man there told them how to get into the city. [1:22-25]
- ☐ The house of Joseph defeated the city of Bethel but did not harm the man and his family. [1:25-26]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who went to live with the people of Judah near Arad? [1:16]
The descendants of Moses' father-in-law the Kenite went to live with the people of Judah.
2. What did the men of Judah and the men of Simeon do to the Canaanites? [1:17]
The men attacked the Canaanites who lived in Zephath and completely destroyed them.
3. Why could the people not drive out the inhabitants of the plains? [1:19]
They could not drive out the inhabitants of the plains because the inhabitants had iron chariots.
4. What did Caleb do in Hebron? [1:20]
Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from Hebron.
5. Why have the Jebusites lived with the people of Benjamin? [1:21]
The Jebusites lived with the people of Benjamin because the people of Benjamin did not drive them out.
6. Why did the house of Joseph send men out? [1:22-23]
They sent men out to spy on the city of Bethel.
7. What did the spies ask the man they saw coming out from the city? [1:24]
The spies asked the man to show them how to get into the city.
8. What did the house of Joseph do after the man showed them a way into the city? [1:25]
The house of Joseph attacked the city, but they let the man and his family get away.

Judges 1:16-26 continued

9. What did the man and his family do? [1:26]

The man and his family went to the land of the Hittites and built a city there and called it Luz.

Comment Section:

1:30-36

Background: The Israelites continued to defeat the Canaanites, but they did not drive out all of them from the land.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The people of Zebulun, Asher, and Naphtali did not drive out all the Canaanites in their lands. [1:30-33]
- ☐ The Amorite people forced the tribe of Dan out into the hill country. [1:34]
- ☐ The house of Joseph conquered the Amorites, and they were forced to serve with hard labor. [1:35-36]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Zebulun do when they did not drive out the peoples of Kitron and Nahalol? [1:30]
Zebulun forced the peoples of Kitron and Nahalol to serve them with hard labor.
2. What did the tribe of Asher do when they did not drive out the Canaanites? [1:31-32]
The tribe of Asher lived among the people of Canaan.
3. What did the tribe of Naphtali do when they did not drive out the peoples of Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath? [1:33]
The tribe of Naphtali forced the peoples of Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath to serve with hard labor.
4. Why was the tribe of Dan not able to go down to the plain? [1:34]
The Amorites forced the tribe of Dan out from the plain and into the hill country.
5. What happened when the house of Joseph went against the Amorites? [1:35]
The house of Joseph conquered the Amorite people and forced them to serve with hard labor.

Comment Section:

2:1-5

Background: Before Joshua died, Yahweh commanded the Israelites not to associate with the Canaanites or worship their gods. The Israelites promised Yahweh they would not and affirmed their covenant with him.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The angel of Yahweh spoke with Israel, reminding them that he brought them out from Egypt, and that he would not break his covenant with them. [2:1]
- ☐ The angel of Yahweh told the people of Israel they must never make a covenant with those who lived in the land of Canaan. [2:2]
- ☐ The Israelites had not listened to God, therefore, the Canaanites would be thorns in the sides of Israel. [2:3]
- ☐ The Israelites cried out and wept. They then offered sacrifices to Yahweh. [2:4-5]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the angel of Yahweh remind the Israelites? [2:1]
The angel of Yahweh reminded Israel that God brought them out from Egypt and brought them to the land promised to their fathers.
2. What did God say about the promise he made to the fathers in 2:1?
God promised that he would never break his covenant with Israel.
3. What instruction did the angel of Yahweh speak to Israel? [2:2]
The angel of the Yahweh said that Israel was to make no covenant with the people in the land of Canaan. The angel also told Israel they were to tear down the altars.
4. What charge did the angel of Yahweh bring against Israel in 2:2?
God told Israel they had not listened to his voice.
5. What did God say about the Canaanites in 2:3?
God said he would not drive out the Canaanites from the land. He said the Canaanites would become thorns in the sides of the people of Israel. God said the gods of the Canaanites would be a trap for the Israelites.
6. What do you think it meant for the Canaanites to be thorns in their sides and for the Canaanite gods to be a trap for them?
It probably meant that the Canaanites would cause problems for the Israelites, and the Israelites would be tempted to worship their gods.
7. How did the people respond when the angel of Yahweh spoke those words? [2:4]
The people of Israel shouted and wept.

Judges 2:1-5 continued

8. What did the people of Israel call the name of that place? [2:5]
They called the name of the place Bokim. (The name "Bokim" means "weepers.")

Comment Section:

2:11-15

Background: This passage mentions Baal and the Ashtoreths. These were gods the Canaanites worshiped.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh. [2:11]
- ☐ The people of Israel broke away from God and went after the gods of the peoples around them. [2:12]
- ☐ The anger of the Lord burned against the Israelites, and so he gave them over to the raiders. [2:14]
- ☐ When Israel went out to fight, God's hand was against them, just as he swore to them. [2:15]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the people of Israel do in 2:11?
The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh, and they served the Baals.
2. What was the evil done by the people of Israel? [2:12]
The people of Israel disobeyed Yahweh and started worshiping the gods of the peoples around them.
3. What was God's response to the people of Israel in 2:14?
Yahweh was very angry with the people of Israel. Yahweh allowed enemies to take Israelites as slaves.
4. What happened when Israel went out to fight? [2:15]
Yahweh was against Israel, and Israel was defeated just as Yahweh swore to them.

Comment Section:

2:16-23

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh raised up judges to save the Israelites from those who were oppressing them. [2:16, 18]
- ☐ The people would not listen to the judges, and they were unfaithful to Yahweh. [2:17]
- ☐ When the judge died, the people of Israel became even more corrupt and stubborn than before. [2:19]
- ☐ The anger of the Lord burned against Israel because they did not listen to his voice. [2:20]
- ☐ Yahweh said he would not drive out the nations in the land of Canaan as a way to test Israel. [2:21-23]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. When Yahweh raised up judges for the people, what did the judges do? [2:16]
The judges saved the Israelites from the people who were stealing their possessions.
2. How did the people of Israel respond to the judges? [2:17]
 - The Israelites responded in many ways:
 - They did not listen to their judges.
 - They were unfaithful to Yahweh
 - They gave themselves to other gods and worshiped them.
 - They turned away from obeying the commandments of God.
3. What happened when Yahweh raised up judges for the people of Israel? [2:18]
After Yahweh raised up judges, he helped the judges to deliver the Israelites from their enemies as long as the judge lived.
4. What happened when the judge died? [2:19]
The Israelites turned away from God and were more corrupt than their fathers. They served other gods and worshiped them. They refused to give up their evil ways.
5. Why did the anger of Yahweh burn against Israel? [2:20]
Yahweh's anger burned because Israel broke the terms of his covenant and did not listen to him.
6. What did God say he would no longer do for Israel? [2:21]
God said he would no longer drive out the nations that Joshua left.
7. What was the reason God did not drive out the nations quickly and give them into the hand of Joshua? [2:22-23]
God was testing Israel to see if they would obey him.

Comment Section:

3:7-11

Background: Yahweh left some Canaanites in the land to test Israel to confirm whether they would obey him.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. [3:7]
- ☐ Yahweh's anger burned against Israel and gave them over to the king of Aram where they served him for eight years. [3:8]
- ☐ Yahweh raised up Othniel as the judge of Israel to go and rescue them from the king of Aram. [3:9].
- ☐ Yahweh gave Othniel a great victory and there was peace in the land for forty years. [3:10-11]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the people of Israel do in 3:7?
The people of Israel did what was evil and forgot Yahweh, their God.
2. What did Yahweh do when his anger burned against the Israelites? [2:8]
He allowed the king Aram to defeat them, and they served the king for eight years.
3. What happened when the people of Israel called out to Yahweh? [3:9]
Yahweh raised up Othniel to help rescue the people of Israel.
4. What happened when Yahweh's spirit empowered Othniel? [3:10]
Yahweh gave Othniel victory over the king of Aram.
5. What was the result of Othniel's victory? [3:11]
The people of Israel had peace for forty years.

Comment Section:

4:1-24

Background: In 3:8-31, the people of Israel again did what was evil, and Yahweh allowed them to be defeated by the Moabites. The Israelites called out to Yahweh, and he raised up a judge named Ehud. Ehud rescued the Israelites from the Moabites, and they had peace for 80 years.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh allowed the Canaanites, commanded by Sisera, to defeat the Israelites because the Israelites again did what was evil. [4:1-3]
- ☐ Deborah was a judge, and the people of Israel came to her because she settled their disputes. [4:4-5]
- ☐ Deborah told Barak to gather an army and fight against the army of Sisera. Barak said he would go only if Deborah went with them. She agreed but said God would deliver Sisera into the hand of a woman. [4:6-10]
- ☐ Sisera called out all his nine hundred chariots and soldiers for the battle, but Yahweh confused Sisera's warriors. Barak pursued the warriors, and they were all killed. [4:12-16]
- ☐ Sisera ran away and went to the tent of Jael, where she killed him while he was asleep. [4:17-21]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the people of Israel do after Ehud died? [4:1]
They did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh.
2. How did Yahweh respond to Israel's evil? [4:2]
Yahweh allowed the army of Jabin, king of Canaan, to defeat them.
3. Who was the commander of Jabin's army? [4:2]
Sisera.
4. How long did Sisera and his army oppress the Israelites? [4:3]
Twenty years.
5. Who was Deborah? [4:4]
Deborah was a prophetess and a leading judge in Israel.
6. What did she do under the palm of Deborah? [4:5]
She settled disputes that occurred between the people of Israel.
7. What did Yahweh command Barak to do? [4:6]
Yahweh commanded Barak to take ten thousand men and go to Mt. Tabor.
8. What did Yahweh say he would do for Barak? [4:7]
Yahweh said he would draw out Sisera to the Kishon River, and he would give Barak victory over Sisera's army.

Judges 4:1-24 continued

9. What did Barak say to Deborah in 4:8?

Barak told Deborah that he would go if she went with him, but if she did not, he would not go.

10. Why would Barak not receive honor for what he was about to do? [4:9]

He would not receive the honor because Yahweh would cause a woman to defeat Sisera.

11. What did Sisera do when he heard that Barak went up to Mount Tabor? [4:12-13]

Sisera called out all his chariots and all of his soldiers who were with him.

12. What did Yahweh do with regard to Sisera and his army? [4:15]

Yahweh confused Sisera and all his chariots and his army. Sisera ran away on foot.

13. Where did Sisera run after his army was defeated? [4:17]

Sisera ran to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite.

14. What did Jael say to Sisera when she saw him? [4:18]

She told him to turn aside and not be afraid.

15. What did Jael give Sisera when he asked for a drink of water? [4:19]

Jael gave Sisera some milk from a leather bag.

16. What did Sisera ask Jael to do for him? [4:20]

He asked Jael to stand at the opening of the tent and to tell people that no one was in the tent.

17. What did Jael do to Sisera after he fell into a deep sleep? [4:21]

Jael hammered a tent peg into the side of Sisera's head until the peg went into the ground, and Sisera died.

18. What did God do for Israel after that day? [4:24]

God made the people of Israel grow stronger and completely defeat Jabin, the king of Canaan.

Comment Section:

6:28-35

Background: In 6:1-27, the people of Israel again did evil in the sight of Yahweh, so Yahweh allowed the people of Midian to defeat them. When the Israelites cried out, Yahweh called Gideon as a judge and told him to go and tear down the altar of Baal, rebuild it the correct way, and sacrifice a bull to Yahweh there. Yahweh also told him to cut down the Asherah and burn the wood. Gideon took 10 servants and did as Yahweh said.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The men of the town woke to find the altar of Baal broken down and the Asherah cut down. They learned Gideon did it, and the men wanted to kill him. [6:28-30]
- ☐ Gideon's father, Joash, told the men that if Baal was god, he could defend himself. [6:31-32]
- ☐ The Midianites, the Amalekites, and the people of the east crossed the Jordan, but Gideon, who was clothed with the Spirit, called some of the tribes of Israel to assemble and follow him. [6:33-35]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What happened in the morning, when the men of the town got up? [6:28]
The men saw that the altar of Baal was broken down, and the Asherah was cut down.
2. What did the men of the city discover about who broke down the altar to Baal? [6:29]
They discovered that Gideon, son of Joash, broke down the altar.
3. What did the men of town want to do with Gideon? [6:30]
They wanted to kill Gideon.
4. What did Joash say to the men of the town? [6:31]
Joash said that if Baal was a god, then the men should let Baal defend himself when someone broke down his altar.
5. What name was given to Gideon because he broke down the altar of Baal? [6:32]
Gideon was called Jerub-Baal after he broke down the altar of Baal.
6. Who camped in the valley of Jezreel? [6:33]
The Midianites, Amalekites, and the people of the east gathered and camped in the Valley of Jezreel.
7. What did the Spirit of Yahweh do for Gideon? [6:34]
The Spirit of Yahweh clothed Gideon.
8. What do you think it meant when the "Spirit of Yahweh clothed Gideon"? [6:34]
Perhaps it meant that the Spirit of Yahweh strengthened Gideon with courage. Perhaps it meant that the Spirit of Yahweh would protect Gideon in battle.

Judges 6:28-35 continued

9. What clans followed Gideon? [6:35]

The clans of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali followed Gideon.

Comment Section:

7:1-18

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Gideon and his army were camping, and Yahweh said there were too many soldiers because when they won, they would say they did it in their own power. [7:1-2]
- ☐ Yahweh said to send home anyone afraid, but there were still too many soldiers remaining. [7:3-4]
- ☐ Yahweh told them to go drink from the river, and Yahweh only kept the 300 men who lapped up the water like a dog. [7:4-7]
- ☐ That night Gideon and his servant went to the enemy camp and heard a soldier talking about his dream. Another soldier realizing it meant that Yahweh would cause the Israelites to defeat them. [7:9-14]
- ☐ Gideon went back to his camp and told his soldiers to blow their horns and shout on every side of the enemy camp. [7:15-18]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Yahweh say to Gideon about all the people gathered with him? [7:1-2]
Yahweh told Gideon there were too many soldiers for Yahweh to give victory over the Midianites.
2. Why did Yahweh tell Gideon that there were too many soldiers? [7:2]
Yahweh did not want the soldiers to boast that their own power saved them.
3. What did Yahweh tell Gideon to proclaim in the ears of the people? [7:3]
Gideon was to proclaim that whoever was afraid should return home.
4. How many soldiers remained with Gideon after he sent home the men who were fearful? [7:3]
Ten thousand soldiers remained with Gideon.
5. What did Yahweh say to Gideon in 7:4?
Yahweh told Gideon there were still too many soldiers. He instructed Gideon to take the men down to the water, and there Yahweh told Gideon who was to go with him.
6. What did Yahweh instruct Gideon to do in 7:5?
Yahweh told Gideon to separate the soldiers who lapped water like a dog from the soldiers who knelt to drink water.
7. How many of the soldiers lapped water? [7:6]
Three hundred men lapped water.
8. What did Yahweh tell Gideon about the three hundred men? [7:7]
Yahweh told Gideon that with the three hundred men he would give victory over the Midianites.

Judges 7:1-18 continued

9. What instruction did Yahweh give Gideon in 7:9?
Yahweh told Gideon to get up and attack the camp for he was going to give Gideon victory over the Midianite camp.
10. What did Yahweh tell Gideon to do if he was afraid? [7:10-11]
Yahweh told Gideon to take Purah with him to go down to the Midianite camp and listen to what they were saying. Yahweh said Gideon's courage would be strengthened.
11. What did the writer say about the Midianite camp in 7:12?
He said there were so many soldiers that they were as thick as a cloud of locusts. The writer said the camels were more than could be counted.
12. What did Gideon hear when he arrived at the Midianite camp with his servant Purah? [7:13]
Gideon heard a man telling a dream to his companion.
13. What was the dream Gideon heard? [7:13]
The dream was about a rolling loaf of bread that rolled into the camp of Midian and hit a tent so hard that it fell and turned upside down.
14. What did the other man say about the dream? [7:14]
The man said the dream was about Gideon and that God gave victory to Gideon over Midian and all their army.
15. What did Gideon do with the group of three hundred men? [7:16]
Gideon divided the men into three groups, gave them all ram's horns and jars with torches inside each jar.
16. What instruction did Gideon give the three hundred men? [7:18]
Gideon told the men that when they heard him blow his horn, they should blow their horns on every side of the enemy camp and shout out, "For Yahweh and for Gideon."

Comment Section:

11:1-11

Background: The people of Israel did evil again in the sight of Yahweh, so he allowed the Philistines and Ammonites to defeat them. They oppressed the Israelites for 18 years. The people repented, removed their false gods, and started worshiping Yahweh again. Yahweh could no longer bear their misery.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Jephthah, the son of Gilead, was forced to leave his home because he was the son of a prostitute. [11:1-2]
- ☐ Jephthah went and lived in the land of Tob, and worthless men gathered around him. [11:3]
- ☐ The people of Ammon made war against Israel, and the elders of Gilead went to bring Jephthah back to fight for the people of Israel. [11:5-6]
- ☐ Jephthah went to fight for the people of Israel on the condition that he would become their leader if they won. [11:9-10]
- ☐ The elders of Gilead and the people made Jephthah the leader and commander over them. [11:11]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who was Jephthah the Gileadite? [11:1]
Jephthah was a mighty warrior. He was also the son of a prostitute and the son of Gilead.
2. What happened when the sons of Gilead's wife grew up? [11:2]
The sons forced Jephthah to leave the house and told him he would not inherit anything of his father's house.
3. What did Jephthah do in 11:3?
Jephthah fled from his brothers to the land of Tob and traveled there with worthless men.
4. What happened some days later? [11:4]
The people of Ammon made war against Israel.
5. What did the elders of Gilead do when the people of Ammon made war against them? [11:5]
They went to bring Jephthah back from the land of Tob.
6. What did the elders say to Jephthah? [11:6]
The elders asked Jephthah to be their leader and fight the people of Ammon.
7. How did Jephthah answer the elders of Gilead? [11:7]
Jephthah told the elders that they hated him, and he was forced to leave his father's house. He asked the elders why they wanted him back when they were in trouble.

Judges 11:1-11 continued

8. What did the elders say to Jephthah in 11:8?
The elders again asked Jephthah to fight with them, and that he would become the leader over all who lived in Gilead.
9. What did Jephthah say to the elders of Gilead in 11:9?
Jephthah told the elders that if he went to fight against the people of Ammon, and Yahweh gave him the victory, he would be their leader.
10. How did the elders respond to Jephthah's statement about becoming their leader? [11:10]
The elders reaffirmed that they would do as they told Jephthah.
11. What happened when Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead? [11:11]
The elders made Jephthah leader and commander over the people of Gilead.

Comment Section:

11:29-40

Background: In 11:1-28, Jephthah sent a message to the king of Ammon asking why he had taken their land. The king accused Israel of taking the land from his people. Jephthah said that Israel only took land from the Amorites. Jephthah said that the king was doing them wrong by attacking them, and Yahweh would judge who was right.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The Spirit of Yahweh came upon Jephthah, and so he traveled through the areas around Gilead. He also passed through the people of Ammon. [11:29]
- ☐ Jephthah made a vow to Yahweh saying if he won the battle, he would sacrifice the first thing to come out of the doors of his house. [11:30-31]
- ☐ Jephthah fought against the people of Ammon and Yahweh gave him victory. [11:32-33]
- ☐ When Jephthah returned home, his daughter came out to meet him, and he tore his clothes because of the vow he made to Yahweh. [11:34-35]
- ☐ Jephthah's daughter told him to do all that he had promised Yahweh. [11:36-37]
- ☐ At the end of two months Jephthah's daughter returned. Jephthah did to her as he had promised Yahweh. [11:39]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Jephthah do after the Spirit of Yahweh came upon him? [11:29]
Jephthah passed through Gilead, Manasseh, through Mizpah and finally through to the people of Ammon.
2. What was Jephthah's vow? [11:30-31]
Jephthah vowed that whatever came out from the door of his house when he arrived home, he would offer up as a burnt offering.
3. What happened when Jephthah fought against the people of Ammon? [11:32]
Yahweh gave Jephthah victory over the people of Ammon.
4. When Jephthah arrived home, who came out of his house to meet him? [11:34]
Jephthah's daughter, his only child, came out to meet him.
5. How did Jephthah respond as soon as he saw her? [11:35]
Jephthah tore his clothes. He cried out to his daughter because of his vow to Yahweh and could not turn back on his promise.
6. What did Jephthah's daughter say to him in 11:36?
Jephthah's daughter said to do everything to her that he had promised Yahweh. She told Jephthah that he made a vow and that Yahweh took vengeance on his enemies as Jephthah asked.

Judges 11:29-40 continued

7. What promise did Jephthah's daughter ask him to keep for her? [11:37]
She asked Jephthah to leave her alone for two months so that she might go into the hills with her companions to grieve.
8. What happened when Jephthah's daughter returned after two months? [11:39]
Jephthah did to his daughter according to the promise of the vow he made with Yahweh.
9. What became a custom in Israel? [11:40]
Every year for four days, the daughters of Israel retold the story of Jephthah's daughter.

Comment Section:

16:23-31

Background: The people of Israel again did evil in the eyes of Yahweh, so he allowed the Philistines to defeat them. They oppressed them for 40 years. Yahweh called Samson before he was born to be the judge to rescue his people. Yahweh said Samson must never use a razor to shave his head. When Samson grew, Yahweh made him very strong. Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman named Delilah. He told Delilah that if he shaved his head, he would become weak like any other man. Delilah told this to the rulers of the Philistines, and they shaved his head while he was asleep. Then they blinded him and put him in prison.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The rulers of the Philistines gathered to celebrate Dagon, their god, because Samson had been conquered. They praised their god for this defeat. [16:23-24]
- ☐ The Philistines called for Samson to be brought from the prison so they might laugh at him. They made him stand between two pillars. [16:25-27]
- ☐ Samson called out to Yahweh to give him strength that he might have revenge on the Philistines. [16:28]
- ☐ Samson placed his hands on the pillars, stretched out with his strength and the building fell upon all the people. [16:29-30]
- ☐ Samson's brothers took his body and brought him back to be buried in the burial place of his father. [16:31]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Why were the rulers of the Philistines gathered to offer a sacrifice? [16:23]
The Philistines were gathered because they believed Dagon, their god, defeated Samson, who was their enemy.
2. Why did the people call for Samson to be brought to their celebration? [16:25]
The people wanted Samson brought to the celebration so that they might laugh at him.
3. Where did the people make Samson stand? [16:25]
They made him stand between two pillars.
4. What did Samson say to the boy who held his hand? [16:26]
Samson asked the boy to permit him to touch the pillars on which the building rested.
5. Who was gathered in and on the house, looking at Samson? [16:27]
All of the rulers of the Philistines were gathered, along with about three thousand men and women.
6. What did Samson say when he called out to Yahweh? [16:28]
Samson called out to Yahweh to strengthen him, that he might have revenge on the Philistines.
7. What did Samson do when his hands touched the pillars? [16:29]
Samson leaned against the pillars, one pillar with his right hand, and the other pillar with his left hand.

Judges 16:23-31 continued

8. What happened when Samson stretched out with his strength? [16:30]
The building fell on the rulers and all the people who were in it.
9. What did the writer say about how many people Samson killed by collapsing the building? [16:30]
Samson killed more people when the building fell than he did during his life.
10. What did Samson's brothers and those of his father's house do after Samson died? [16:31]
They took Samson's body and buried him in the burial place of his father.
11. How long did Samson judge Israel? [16:31]
Samson judged Israel for twenty years.

Comment Section:

21:16-25

Background: A Levite and his concubine were traveling from Judah and passed through the territory of Benjamin. While there, the men of Benjamin badly hurt the concubine and she died. When the people of Israel learned what happened, they gathered and attacked the tribe of Benjamin. Only 600 men of Benjamin survived. The people of Israel swore to never give their daughters to marry a man from Benjamin. They were very sad because one of the tribes of Israel would cease to exist. The people of Israel were able to provide wives for some of the men of Benjamin but not all of them.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The elders discussed how they would arrange for wives for the tribe of Benjamin. [21:16-17]
- ☐ The elders planned for the men of Benjamin to take wives from the girls of Shiloh. [21:18-20]
- ☐ The elders instructed the men of Benjamin to wait until the girls were dancing, then the men were to rush out and grab a wife from among the girls. [21:22]
- ☐ The men of Benjamin did as the elders instructed; they grabbed a wife from the girls at Shiloh, then returned to the place of their inheritance. [21:23]
- ☐ The book of Judges ends with this lament: "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." [21:25]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the elders discuss in 21:16?
The elders discussed how they could arrange wives for the men of Benjamin. The women of Benjamin had been killed.
2. Why did the elders say there must be an inheritance for the remnant of Benjamin? [21:17]
They must have an inheritance so that a tribe from among Israel would not be destroyed.
3. What was the reason the people of Israel could not give wives, from among their daughters, to the clan of Benjamin? [21:18]
The people of Israel had sworn that anyone who gave a wife to the clan of Benjamin was to be cursed.
4. Where was the town of Shiloh? [21:19]
Shiloh was north of Bethel, east of the road that travels from Bethel to Shechem.
5. What did the elders instruct the men of Benjamin to do at the festival at Shiloh? [11:20-21]
The elders instructed the men of Benjamin to hide themselves in the vineyards. They were to wait for the time the girls of Shiloh came out to dance. The men of Benjamin were to rush out and take a wife from the girls of Shiloh and then return to the land of Benjamin.
6. What did the elders plan to say when the fathers and brothers of the girls that were taken began to protest? [21:22]
The elders planned to say, "Show us favor because we did not get wives for each man during the war."

Judges 21:16-25 continued

7. What do you think it meant when the elders told the fathers they were innocent, since they did not give their daughters to the men of Benjamin? [21:22]
Perhaps the elders were speaking about the curse that would be upon anyone who gave a daughter of theirs to be a wife of a man from the tribe of Benjamin. Their daughters were stolen from them, so they would not be cursed.
8. What did the people of Benjamin do in 21:23?
The men took the girls as instructed, carried them off to be their wives, and returned to the place of their inheritance.
9. What did the people of Israel do in 21:24?
The people left Shiloh and went to their homes, each to his own tribe and inheritance.
10. What happened when there was no king in Israel?
Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Comment Section: