

Extraordinary Things through Ordinary People

Chapter 3

Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson 29



Objective: To learn how God works through the lives of ordinary people who are submitted and available to Him.



When the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge and delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed and afflicted them.

—Judges 2:18

The personal lives of Israel's judges make for some of the most interesting character studies in the Bible. For the most part, the judges were ordinary people with the same strengths and faults that many of us have. The book of Judges shows us that God delights in doing extraordinary things through very ordinary people like you and me. Through God's Spirit, these ordinary people were able to accomplish great things. Though the book of Judges is primarily about apostasy and its terrible consequences, it shows us some wonderful truths about how God honors faithfulness and fulfills His purposes for His people.



1. True or **false**? God does great things through great people because of their greatness.
2. True or **false**? We do not have cycles of obedience and apostasy today like Israel did.
3. **True** or false? There were about seven cycles of apostasy and three civil wars in the period of the Judges.
4. **True** or false? Cycles of apostasy can apply to nations, individuals, families, and churches.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Which of the following are applications from the book of Judges? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. **We can repent and avoid God's judgment.**
 - b. Our enemies usually seem to be stronger than God is.
 - c. **The biographies of the judges are examples and warnings for us.**
 - d. Even when we are faithful, God will not deliver us from all our enemies.

6. What did all the judges have in common?
 - a. They were remarkable and exceptional people.
 - b. **They were ordinary people but were available for God to use.**
 - c. They had all been trained as soldiers and leaders.
 - d. They were all men.

7. How did Gideon describe himself?
 - a. As a mighty warrior
 - b. As a very faithful man
 - c. **As the least of the weakest clan**
 - d. As a shepherd, not a fighter

8. What was Othniel's key to success?
 - a. He was Caleb's nephew and the first judge.
 - b. He had been trained as a priest.
 - c. He knew how to deceive the enemy.
 - d. **The Holy Spirit had control of him.**

9. What characteristic of Ehud did God use to deliver Israel?
 - a. His great wisdom
 - b. His political skills
 - c. His large family
 - d. **His left-handedness**

10. On what condition did Barak go to fight against Sisera?
 - a. **Deborah would go with him.**
 - b. He would have the opportunity to kill Sisera himself.
 - c. God would give him a large reward.
 - d. He would join the Canaanite army after Israel lost.

11. How did the people react after Jael killed Sisera and Israel was delivered from the Canaanites?
 - a. They immediately rebelled against the Lord.
 - b. **They celebrated and Deborah and Barak sang a song of victory.**
 - c. They mourned because of all the Israelites who died.
 - d. They decided to move out of Canaan.

12. Which of the following is one of the most common and effective ways people in the Bible expressed the inexpressible?

- a. Rituals
- b. Music**
- c. Prayers
- d. Preaching



What are your greatest weaknesses? Would any of them keep God from using you?



Praise God that He chooses ordinary people to do His work. Ask Him to use you in His power and strength as you learn to be available and on depend on Him.



Going Deeper

1. What do all the judges have in common? _____

2. In what way do the judges inspire the thought that God could use you to do extraordinary things for Him? _____

3. Does this mean that God only uses ordinary people and He cannot use extraordinarily gifted people? Explain. _____

4. Did these judges want to do what God was calling them to do and did they think they could do it? Explain. _____

5. Gifted or not gifted, what were the keys to their fruitful ministries? _____

6. Why have God's people always been a singing people, as when Deborah and Barak sang a song of victory? _____

7. Point out some examples and some warnings in the life and ministry of your favorite judge.
