

Judges Series

Lesson #16

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Biblical Leaders—Part 2
Judges 3:1–6



JUDGES

**Moral Relativism
Destroys a Nation**

2021 Series

Outline of “Judges” (Chieftains, Tribal Rulers, Leaders)

1:1–3:6

Introduction

How Israel went from
spiritual victory
to being worse than
the Canaanites.

**Incomplete
obedience**

Compromise

Failure

Cycles of discipline

3:7–16:31

Paganization of the Leadership

Othniel (the best)

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

Gideon

Tola, Jair

Jephthah

Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

Samson

(the worst)

17:1–21:25

Paganization of the Priests

Chap. 17–18

**and the
People**

Chap. 19–21

What the Bible Teaches About Standards for Leaders



1. The leaders in Judges do not fit the biblical standards in the Old Testament (OT) for leaders.

What does that tell us?

What is God showing us?

What should we learn from this?

2. OT qualifications for leaders.

Ex. 18:20, “And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.

Ex. 18:21, “Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

Ex. 18:22, “And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you.”

3. Able men, אַנְשֵׁי-חַיִל 'anshi-chayil, “men of valor” strong Hebrew expression. ~NET capable men, men who know how to get things done, accomplishments, *Men of valor*, or men of integrity; the word emphasizes strength and influence.

The Angel of the Lord calls Gideon “a man of *chayil*.” Judg. 6:12;

Jephthah is a “mighty man of *chayil*”, Judges 11:21;

Saul, 1 Sam. 19:1; David, 1 Sam. 16:18;

Jeroboam, 1 Kings 11:28;

Naaman the Syrian, 2 Kings 6:14

1 Sam. 16:18, “Then one of the servants answered and said, ‘Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him.’ ”

2 Sam. 22:33, “God is my strength and power, and He makes my way perfect.”

Hab. 3:19, “The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer’s feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills. To the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments.”

4. The counterpart to this is found in Prov. 31:10, the virtuous wife, is the woman of valor, HCSB the capable wife.

Prov. 31:10, “Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.” ~HCSB

Prov. 31:10, “Who can find a wife of noble character? For her value is far more than rubies.”
~NET

Prov. 12:4, “An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.” ~NKJV

Prov. 12:4, “A noble wife is the crown of her husband, but the wife who acts shamefully is like rottenness in his bones.” ~NET

5. Also a God-fearer.

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People who fear the Lord—

- **believe the Lord, Ex. 14:31;**
- **they obey the Lord and keep His statutes and commandments, Deut. 6:2;**
- **they serve the Lord and take oaths in His name, Deut. 6:13, 24; 10:20;**

- **to walk in all His ways, to love Him with all your heart and with all your soul, Deut. 10:12;**
- **they read the Scriptures daily, hear the Word, observe the Word, to learn to fear the Lord, Deut. 17:19; 31:12;**
- **serve the Lord with integrity and loyalty (~NET) Josh. 24:14;**
- **put away idols, Josh. 24:14;**
- **serve the Lord in truth, i.e., in integrity, 1 Sam. 12:24;**
- **2 Kings 17, the people feared the Lord yet served idols.**

Job 28:28, “And to man He said, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.’ ”

Psa. 19:9, “The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.”

Psa. 22:23, “You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!”

Psa. 111:10, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.”

Psa. 112:1, “Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments.”

Prov. 1:7, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Prov. 1:29, “Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD,”

Prov. 3:7, “Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.”

6. “Men of truth,” trustworthy, men characterized by the truth.

7. “Hating covetousness,” People who can’t be bought. They hate bribes.

Deut. 18:9, “When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations.

Deut. 18:10, “There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,

Deut. 18:11, “or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.”

1. **There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire.**

Not to be associated with anyone who will sacrifice his child. Child sacrifice was present and prevalent.

2. who practices witchcraft

divination, a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,

- a. קְסָם *qesem* comm masc plur abs divination; the practice of divining or *seeking knowledge by supernatural means*.
- b. עָנַן *anan* poel part masc sing abs to practice fortunetelling, magic, verb used 11 times, uncertain meaning, but is a description of part of occultic practices to determine the future apart from the revelation of God.
- c. נָחַשׁ *nachash* piel part masc sing abs to practice divination
- d. כָּשַׁף *kashaf* piel part masc sing abs to practice sorcery

Lev. 19:26, “You shall not eat anything with the blood, nor shall you practice divination or soothsaying.”

2 Kings 17:17, “And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.”

2 Kings 21:6, “Also he made his son pass through the fire, practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.”

Deut. 18:15, “The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

Deut. 18:16, “according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’

Deut. 18:17, “And the LORD said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good.

Deut. 18:18, “ ‘I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.’ ”

Deut. 18:19, “ ‘And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.

Deut. 18:20, “ ‘But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ ”

2 Pet. 1:21, “for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Deut. 13:1, “If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder,

Deut. 13:2, “and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known—‘and let us serve them,’

Deut. 13:3, “you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Deut. 13:4, “You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.

Deut. 13:5, “But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.”

Matt. 12:24, “Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, ‘This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.’ ”

Matt. 12:27, “And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.”

Judg. 3:1, “Now these are the nations which the LORD left, that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan

Judg. 3:2, “(this was only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it),”