



### Lesson Summary

After Moses delivered his final sermons to the new generation, Moses died and the people began to enter into the Land under a new leader, Joshua. At first, they acted faithfully according to the word of the LORD, but it wasn't long until things started to go south. The people started to get relaxed and failed to drive all the people out of the land and just as God said would happen, the people of the land enticed Israel to follow after false gods. As a result, God cursed them. But that wasn't the end. Just as He said He would, God sent them judges and priests to help them do what was good in His eyes. At first, these judges caused the people to turn back to the LORD, but as time went on, even the judges and priests became wicked and disregarded the word of the LORD. The people followed after them and by the end of their ministries, nobody was doing what was good in God's eyes. Instead every single man was doing what was good in his own eyes. The judges and priests failed to do their job and there was not yet a king in Israel to turn Israel back to the LORD. But a king was coming. Perhaps he will help Israel repent and do what is good in God's eyes.

### Story of the Bible Chart

We remain in the "looking for the Messiah" part of the chart. Today, we reflect on the failure of Israel's initial judges and priests. They do not keep God's word themselves so they fail at holding Israel accountable to God's word and keeping the Law. But Moses said these leaders WOULD help Israel, so we continue to look for a better judge and priest. Ultimately, that will be Messiah, the true Image-Bearer.

Story of the Bible Chart picture of the day:





**JPKP**

**JUDGES • PRIESTS • KINGS • PROPHETS**

## RECAP/INTRO

Moses has led the new generation of Israel to the edge of their promised Land and after Moses delivered his final departing sermons to them, they were ready to go take the land and hopefully set up their kingdom so that they can be a light to the nations. But, do you remember what Moses thought would happen? He thought that they would be just like their fathers and not do what is right in God's eyes, and because of that, God would curse them. Do you think Moses was right? Let's see.

Eventually, Moses died and the people went into the Land. Everything went well at first, but over time, things started to not go so well. Israel was supposed to clear the Land of all the Canaanite people, but Israel didn't listen and they let some of the people who lived in the Land stay. God previously warned them not to leave any of the people in the Land or else the Israelites would be tempted to marry the people of the land and the people of the land would lead them astray to worship other gods. So, Israel has not gotten off to a great start in the Land.

However, do you remember the special leaders Moses told Israel about? They were Judges, Priests, Kings, and Prophets. Do you remember what their job was? They were to make sure Israel did what was good in God's eyes so that Israel would represent God and be a light to the nations. Maybe they can help get Israel back on track!

Today, we are going to look at the Judges and Priests and see if they can help Israel turn it around and do what is right in God's eyes.

# Lesson Outline

## Ages 3-5 Outline

1. God appointed judges and priests to Israel to help them do what is good in God's eyes.
2. In the book of judges, the judges and the priests both act wickedly and disregard God's word.
3. The judges and priests also caused the people to do the same (READ Judges 21:25)
4. The judges and priests failed. Everyone did what was good in their own eyes. But there is still hope that a king could help them.



## Grades 1-6 Outline

### 1. Judges and Priests review:

- a. The **Judges** were to judge the people according to the God's word
- b. The **Priests** were to help the judges settle difficult issues according to God's word
  - \*\*Together, they were to make sure that Israel acted justly – living according to the Law.

### 2. How did they do? Let's look at the book of Judges:

- a. The **judges**, let's look at a few:
  - i. Gideon
    - Gideon multiplied riches for himself, took multiple wives, and elevated himself as a ruler in Israel (Judges 8:24-30).
  - ii. Jair
    - Jair took multiple wives and elevated himself by naming cities after himself (Judges 10:2-4).
  - iii. Samson
    - Samson married a Canaanite woman and did not keep his vow to the LORD (Judges 14:1-3).
- b. The **priests** made the Land like Sodom and Gomorrah, full of sin (Judges 19-20)

### 3. The judges and priests themselves didn't keep God's word. Do you think they caused Israel to keep it?

- a. **ALL READ** the very last line of the book of Judges *"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes (Judges 21:25)"*

## CONCLUSION:

The Judges and Priests failed to cause Israel to do what is good in God's eyes. Instead, they caused every man to only do what was good in his own eyes. But there is still hope... There is not yet a king in Israel... But when one comes, maybe he can get Israel back on track so they can be a light to the nations! Let's find out next week.



## Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.

### Ages 3-5

- 1. Who was leading the people of Israel to their new home?**  
Moses was leading the people.
- 2. What did Moses worry might happen when the people reached their new home?**  
Moses worried that the people might not do what was right and that God would be upset with them.
- 3. What were the special leaders Moses talked about?**  
The special leaders were called Judges and Priests.
- 4. What were the Judges supposed to do?**  
The Judges were supposed to help people do what was right according to God's rules.
- 5. Did the Judges and Priests always do what was right?**  
No, sometimes they didn't do what was right.
- 6. Did the people of Israel always listen to the Judges and Priests?**  
No, sometimes they didn't listen.
- 7. What does it mean when it says everyone did what was right in his own eyes?**  
It means that everyone decided for themselves what was right instead of following God's rules.

### Grades 1-6

- 1. Who were the special leaders Moses talked about, and what were their roles?**  
The special leaders were Judges and Priests. The Judges were to judge the people according to God's word, and the Priests were to help the Judges settle difficult issues according to God's word.
- 2. Can you give examples of Judges who didn't follow God's word?**  
Examples include Gideon, who took multiple wives and elevated himself as a ruler; Jair, who also took multiple wives and named cities after himself; and Samson, who married a woman from Canaan and didn't keep his vow to God.
- 3. What happened in the Land during the time of the Judges and Priests?**  
The Land became full of sin, resembling the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- 4. Why do you think the Judges and Priests couldn't make Israel do what was right?**  
The Judges and Priests themselves didn't always follow God's word, so the people didn't always listen to them.
- 5. What does the statement "everyone did what was right in his own eyes" mean?**  
It means that people were deciding for themselves what was right instead of following God's rules and guidance.
- 6. Is there hope for Israel to do what is right?**  
Yes, there is still hope. Even though the Judges and Priests failed, there's a chance for a king to come and lead Israel back to God's ways.