

Judges – AK 12

COMMENTER'S GUIDE

WRITE IT OUT!

(ON SCANNABLE SINGLE PAGE ANSWER SHEETS ONLY)

These 2 additional questions, not found in the exam booklet are designed to make the student dig into the Biblical text and show they understand the Biblical principles studied throughout the course.

Questions 1 – Explain what was in the heart of the people at each stage in the behavior cycle of the Israelites.

1 - POSSIBLE ANSWERS

The cycle of Judges is – Disobedience, Departure, Discipline & Deliverance. The hearts of the people are constantly described as Disobedient and unfaithful to the Lord. They were in a state of perpetual compromise, never fully obeying the Lord and allowing sin to creep in. Their compromise ALWAYS eventually led them to idolatry (Departure). God would then bring in a foreign nation to overrun them (Discipline). The Lord did this knowing that the idols that they were worshipping would be unable to deliver the people; eventually Israel would be forced to repent and seek the Lord for Deliverance. Their repentance was often incomplete, turning just enough to be delivered from their enemies, but they would immediately settle back into their old ways as soon as their oppression has been lifted. Despite this, the Lord delivered them in grace over and over again.

1 - HELPFUL COMMENTS

It helpful to highlight God's repeated grace to Israel, especially in light of the consistent unfaithfulness of the people. It may also be helpful to point out that Israel's story is an example to us as believers about the tendencies of our own hearts and the richness of God's faithful love.

1 - VERSES

2 Timothy 2.13 may be a good verse. 1 Corinthians 10:6

Questions 2 – Pick one of these three Judges (Gideon, Deborah, Samson) you relate to and explain their qualities and pitfalls.

2 - POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Each of these Judges accomplished much because of their faith in God, yet each had obstacles to overcome which made them rely on God for success. This makes them both relatable and encouraging.

Deborah - Deborah's only conspicuous obstacle was that she was a woman in a culture and time that did not usually accept women as leaders. But God not only used her to wisely judge disputes but also to lead Israel's army in a battle that gained them freedom. There is no record of her wavering in faith or struggling with doubts.

Gideon - Gideon is no one of any significance when God found him, but God called him to save Israel. He was also a man filled with fear, doubts and excuses, yet God showed him grace and patience and used him in incredible ways. He is easy to relate to because of his weaknesses

Samson - Samson's lust and sin are obvious from the beginning of the story. He has little-to-no-control over his desires, yet the Spirit of the Lord filled him and empowered him. Most of us can easily relate to Samson and many people (especially prisoners because of Samson's own imprisonment at the end of the story due to his mistakes) will use him in response to this question.

2 - HELPFUL COMMENTS

No matter who the student picks, remind them how God uses the unexpected people. It is not the strong, the smart, the privileged, or the gifted whom God will use, but instead He calls the humble and the weak.

2 - VERSES

1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

These questions are designed to help the student express their thoughts, feelings, and opinions about something they have learned from the chapter.

EXAM 1 – What effect has the sin of compromise had in your life?

1 - COMMENTS

- Compromise for the Israelites resulted in their failure to defeat the Canaanites and their sinful way of life. They did not completely conquer their enemies. The Canaanites remained a continual source of problems for them. As a result, they intermarried with them and adopted their idolatrous way of life.
- The most certain result of compromise is a decline spiritually. We compromise in the first place because we fail to believe God and obey Him. We must keep our focus on the Lord and deal with sin (Col. 3:1-5). But when we fail, and we will sometimes, there is always forgiveness for us even as there was for the Israelites (1 John 1:9).
- A Christian is to be set apart and focus on heavenly things.

1 - VERSES

- [Col. 3:1-5](#)
- [1 John 1:9](#)
- [Col. 3:1-4](#) Keep your thoughts on the things above.
- [Jude 24](#) God can keep us from falling.
- [Mark 14:38](#); [Luke 22:46](#) Keep alert and pray.
- [Gen. 24:63](#) Meditate on the things of God.
- [Ps. 4:3](#) But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly; The LORD will hear when I call to Him.

EXAM 2 – Comment on the concept of “second-generation Christians” and how it can be guarded against. (Ezekiel 18:26)

2 - COMMENTS

- The second generation did not know the Lord. They knew about the Lord and His works, but did not know Him personally. They were faithless.

- If we are second generation Christians ourselves, we must be sure that we are not relying on our parent's faith and experience, but that we personally know the Lord and are faithfully following Him.
- To guard against it, if we are first generation Christians, we must first of all be diligent to teach His Word to our children so that they come to personal faith in Christ. Moses gave them this instruction many times ([Deut. 4:9; 6:5-9](#)).
- We are also instructed in the New Testament to bring up our children for the Lord ([Eph. 6:4](#)).
- It is the duty of each Christian to spread the Word and teach the younger generation about the greatness of God.

2 - VERSES

- [Deut. 4:9; 6:5-9](#)
- [Eph. 6:4](#)
- [Josh. 24:15](#) And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods whom your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.
- But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
- [Matt. 10:32-33](#) Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But
- whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.
- [Rom. 1:16](#) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for
- the Jew first and also for the Greek.
- [Prov. 1:7](#) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- [Deut. 4:10](#); 11:19; [Prov. 22:6](#) Learn about God and His ways and teach others the ways of the Lord.

EXAM 3 – Of the three judges covered in this lesson, which one is an example to you right now and how?

3 - COMMENTS

- From [Judges 2:18](#) we learn that the judges were *appointed* by God. They were *empowered* by God and God used them to *deliver* them out of the hand of their enemies.
- [Othniel](#) was a man of skill, courage, faith, and filled with the Spirit.
- [Ehud](#) killed King Eglon King of Moab. He was clever and skillful and was a successful military leader. Nothing is said of his spiritual status, but he understood that God would give him victory.
- [Shamgar](#) was a herdsman who was skillful in using an ox-goad. Single-handedly he killed 600 men. He was skillful and brave

- Believer's need to be obedient, humble and without fear of man but in admonition of God.

3 - VERSES

- [Judges 2:18](#)
- [2 Tim. 1:7](#) For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.
- [Isa. 1:19](#) If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land.
- [1 Chron. 22:13](#) Then you will prosper, if you take care to fulfill the statutes and judgments with which the LORD charged Moses concerning
- Israel. Be strong and of good courage; do not fear nor be dismayed.
- [Ps. 147:6](#) The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground.

EXAM 4 – What are some lessons of leadership from the example of Deborah? How can you apply them to your situation?

4 - COMMENTS

- Deborah was a prophetess and a judge. She is the only women in the Bible called to be a national leader. Her role as prophetess was outside the usual role in the Old Testament. She saw the need and responded to God's call. She did not do it alone, as she recognized her own limitations. She motivated Barak whom she knew had the strengths needed to do what God wanted them to do. She reminded him of God's promises and encouraged him. She gave God the glory and did not put herself forward. She gave credit to all the others who helped in defeating God's enemies. She understood God's will in this particular situation. She was humble brave and obedient. See [Hebrews 10:24](#).
- We should all let Christ shine through us and be an instrument for His glory, especially if we are in leadership positions.

4 - VERSES

- [Heb. 10:24](#)
- [1 Peter 5:3](#) Leaders led by good example.
- [Prov. 12:24](#) Work hard and become a leader.
- [1 Thess. 4:18](#); [Heb. 10:24-25](#) Christians are to encourage one another.
- [Eph. 4:1-3](#) Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with long-suffering, bearing
- with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- [Gal. 6:1-2](#) Lead gently.
- [2 Tim. 4:2](#) Preach

EXAM 5 – Has your spiritual life been comprised by the “invasion” of the philosophies of this world? What have you done / will you do about it?

5 - COMMENTS

- Allow Scripture to be your teacher, not the world.

- The philosophies of the world include humanism, self-centeredness and materialism
- Can we recognize these philosophies and their influence in our lives?
- Humanism rejects all moral absolutes. The outworking of this is that you make your own rules on how you want to live. Self-centeredness is doing what we want to do regardless of what the Word of God says. Our own personal interests come first. Materialism is making our temporal needs more important than our spiritual needs. We are promised that if we seek Him first, we will have our needs met ([Matt. 6:33-34](#)).
- If we have allowed this thinking to invade our lives, we need to repent and turn back to the Lord. ([1 John 1:9](#)) We can start by focusing our lives on Him, and dealing with our sin ([Col. 3:1-5](#); [1 John 2:15-17](#)). [James 3:13-18](#) gives a description of earthly, and heavenly wisdom.
- We cannot allow the philosophies of the world to dictate our spiritual life. We can use anything provided by God to keep our Spiritual flame burning.

5 - VERSES

- [Matt. 6:33-34](#)
- [1 John 1:9](#)
- [Col. 3:1-5](#)
- [1 John 2:15-17](#)
- [James 3:13-18](#)
- [Col. 3:1-4](#) Keep your thoughts on the things above.
- [Isa. 26:3](#) Fix your thoughts on God.
- [Ps. 119:105](#) Let the Word of God guide you in all things.
- [Prov. 13:20](#) He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companions of fools will be destroyed.
- [1 Cor. 15:33](#) Do not be deceived: evil company corrupts good habits.
- [Jude 24](#) God can keep us from falling.
- [Phil. 4:13](#) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- [Mark 14:38](#); [Luke 22:46](#) Keep alert and pray.
- [Gen. 24:63](#) Meditate on the things of God.

EXAM 6 – As you consider your service for Christ, how has He prepared you for the task He has given you?

6 - COMMENTS

- The following is the way Gideon was prepared by God for service. Preparation should include:
 - a personal encounter with the Lord
 - obeying the Lord publically or taking a stand ([Josh. 1:8-9](#))
 - being filled with the Holy Spirit ([Eph. 5:18](#))
 - God will not send His workers out unprepared. He provides and cares for us. We just have to trust in Him.

6 - VERSES

- [Josh. 1:8-9](#)
- [Eph. 5:18](#)
- [Matt. 25:23](#) Be a faithful servant to the Lord.
- [Isa. 41:10](#) Fear not...I will strengthen you. Yes, I will uphold you with My righteous hand.
- [Eph. 3:16](#) He would grant you according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit.
- [2 Sam. 22:33](#) God is our strength and He will make our way perfect.
- [Ex. 19:5](#) If you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people.
- [1 Chron. 16:11](#) Seek the Lord and His strength.
- [Isa. 40:31](#) But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.

EXAM 7 – Why did Gideon fail to lead the people properly as time went on? How is this a warning to you?

7 - COMMENTS

- His directions for the making of an ephod was the beginning. It was to be a memorial, but became an idol. Though He knew that the Lord should be the ruler, he did become proud of his accomplishments ([1 Peter 5:6, 8](#)). Also he disobeyed the Lord in taking many wives. He became careless and disobedient. Paul said he disciplined himself so that he would not be disqualified from gaining prize ([1 Cor. 9:27; 10:13-14](#)).
- Stay focused on the Lord and do not allow the cares of the world to distract you from your purpose.

7 - VERSES

- [1 Peter 5:6, 8](#)
- [1 Cor. 9:27](#)
- [1 Cor. 10:13-14](#)
- [Ps. 116:2](#) Pray as long as you have breath.
- [2 Chron. 7:14](#) Pray and seek God's face.
- [Ps. 145:18](#) The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.
- [James 4:8](#) Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that
- we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.
- [Prov. 12:15](#) The way of the fool seems right.
- [Mark 4:18-19](#) Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the
- deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

- [1 Peter 5:6-7](#) Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

EXAM 8 – How does the account of Abimelech develop the theme(s) of the book of Judges?

8 - COMMENTS

- The seeds of moral decay that Gideon had sown in his life bore fruit to a greater extent in his son's life. Abimelech destroyed himself and the city he ruled ([Gal. 6:7-8](#)). There was disobedience, judgment and destruction. What you reap is always more than you sow.
- What we reap is what we will sow.

8 - VERSES

- [Gal. 6:7-8](#)
- [Rev. 22:11](#) He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.
- [1 Sam. 12:24](#) Be sure to fear the Lord.
- [Prov. 11:3](#) Maintain integrity.
- [James 4:7](#) Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
- [John 16:8](#) And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.
- [1 Sam. 15:23](#) Rebellion is as bad a sin as witchcraft.
- [Josh. 23:6](#) Be careful to obey God.

EXAM 9 – Identify Jephthah's good and bad qualities. What lessons can you learn from him?

9 - COMMENTS

- He was a man who held God in high honor. He obeyed in the power of the Holy Spirit. He was a man of faith who believed that God would enable him to be victorious. His faith pleased God as he is commended in [Hebrews 11](#). He kept his word in spite of the consequences, but made a vow quickly without considering the results. Before going to war, he was willing to settle the problem peaceably. In spite of being rejected by his brothers, he made the most of his situation. He developed his relationship with God. Proverbs warns us to be careful in making a vow ([Prov. 20:25](#)). [Proverbs 3:5-6](#) exhort us to trust in the LORD with all our heart; in all our ways to acknowledge Him, and He will direct our paths.
- Jephthah had great faith at times and was very uncertain at other times. He was very hasty to make an unnecessary vow to God.

9 - VERSES

- [Prov. 20:25](#)
- [Prov. 3:5-6](#)
- [Isa. 41:10](#) Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

- [Ps. 62:8](#) Trust in God at all times.
- [Prov. 20:25](#) be careful in making vows.
- [Judges 11:30](#) Jephthah's vow

EXAM 10 – How do you account for God choosing a man like Samson to do His work?

10 - COMMENTS

- God choose Samson before he was born to deliver Israel from the oppression of the Philistines. His choosing of him was not on merit, but on grace. God knew what kind of man he would be. He is sovereign and can choose whom He pleases. It does not mean that God approved of all that Samson did anymore than He approved of all that David did. The Scripture commentary on Samson is not a warning against lust, but an encouragement to act in God's strength. God uses flawed people to accomplish His purposes. We should use the members of our body for righteousness ([Rom. 6:13](#)).
- God can use any of His children to do His work. We are to be instruments of righteousness for God.

10 - VERSES

- [Rom. 6:13](#)
- [James 1:8](#) Do not waver back and forth.
- [Amos 5:15](#) Choose good, not evil.
- [2 Peter 1:19](#) We have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.
- [John 16:33](#) These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.
- [Phil. 1:20](#) We must honor God.
- [Rom. 6:13](#) Give yourselves completely to God.

EXAM 11 – From the life of Samson, what warnings/lessons would you pass on to young people?

11 - COMMENTS

- The life of Samson is a warning for young people. Samson was focused on self and gratifying his desires rather than doing what God wanted him to do. Ultimately this destroyed his ministry and his life. [2 Timothy 2:22](#) says “Flee youthful lusts, but pursue righteousness.” Evil from our hearts defiles us ([Matt. 15:18-19](#)). We are to flee Sexual immorality” ([1 Cor. 6:18-20](#)).
- Samson focused a lot on “self” and not on what he was commissioned to do. Live in humility.

11 - VERSES

- [2 Tim. 2:22](#)

- [Matt. 15:18-19](#)
- [1 Cor. 6:18-20](#)
- [Col. 3:12](#) Be clothed with humility.
- [Luke 14:11](#) The humble will be exalted.
- [Ps. 55:22](#) Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.
- [James 1:2-4](#) Be joyous in your trials and persevere through Christ.
- [James 5:11](#) Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended
- by the Lord--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.
- [2 Tim. 4:18](#) And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!
- [Gal. 5:1](#) Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

EXAM 12 – How does the phrase “In those days there was no king in Israel; Everyone did what was right in his own eyes,” explain Israel’s decline? What are the ramifications of this comment for society today?

12 - COMMENTS

- They did not obey God’s Word, but the dictates of their own sinful hearts. They did their “own thing” rather than seeking Him and His will for them ([Isa. 53:6](#)). Today’s society is no different. When we do what we want rather than choose God’s way, it brings moral decay. Anytime we disobey the written Word of God, we are doing what is “right in our own eyes”.
- Today's world lives with much of the same philosophy as Israel; everyone is doing what is right in his eyes. And the ramifications are just as bad, if not worse, as we are also in decline.

12 - VERSES

- [Isa. 53:6](#)
- [Jude 24](#) God can keep us from falling.
- [2 Peter 3:18](#) Grow in grace and knowledge.
- [Eph. 5:15](#) Be careful how you live.
- [1 Thess. 5:6](#) Be on guard, stand true to beliefs.
- [2 Cor. 10:3-6](#) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.
- [James 1:12](#) Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.
- [Heb. 6:15](#) And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

- [2 John 2:5](#) Watch out so you do not lose the prize.