

Handout 5-E

The Book of Judges

Directions: Read the cited scripture passages and related biblical footnotes to help you to fill in the blanks for each item.

1. The Book of Judges is named not after courtroom judges but after the military leaders of Israel, whose number was _____.
2. They exercised their leadership after the death of Joshua until the nation of Israel established a form of government with a king, known as a _____.
3. A judge never ruled over the entire nation of Israel but only over one or two _____.
4. During the Exodus, the Israelites were organized around one leader named _____.
5. During the time of the judges, the Israelites were a loose confederation of tribes with no central government. What kept them together was the _____ made with them by God on Mount Sinai.
6. There were six major judges whose stories are recounted at length in the Scriptures. They are:
 - A. Jgs 3:7–11 _____
 - B. Jgs 3:15–30 _____
 - C. Jgs 4:6–16 _____
 - D. Jgs 6:11–8:32 _____
 - E. Jgs 11:1–12:7 _____
 - F. Jgs 13:2–16:31 _____
7. There are also six minor judges, called minor because not much was written about them. They are:
 - A. Jgs 3:31 _____
 - B. Jgs 10:1 _____
 - C. Jgs 10:3 _____
 - D. Jgs 12:8 _____
 - E. Jgs 12:11 _____
 - F. Jgs 12:13 _____
8. Each of the stories of the judges follows a pattern (see Jgs 2:10–19). The pattern contains four parts:
 - A. The Israelites sin, and this is usually the sin of _____. (Jgs 2:11–12)
 - B. God punishes the Israelites by having them fall into the power of their _____. (Jgs 2:14)
 - C. God takes pity on his people and raises up a _____ to save them from their enemies.
 - D. After the judge dies, the Israelites would relapse and do _____. (Jgs 2:19)

Handout 5-E continued

9. In the famous story of the judge Gideon, God wanted to show the Israelites that it was God's power that saved his people, not the strength of any army, and so God tells Gideon that he has too many _____ . (Jgs 7:2)
10. Which soldiers does God tell Gideon to keep to fight the battle?
_____ . (Jgs 7:4-7)
11. Perhaps the most famous of all the judges was _____ . (Jgs 13-16)
12. Samson's greatest attribute was his _____ . (Jgs 14:6)
13. The enemies of the Israelites at this time were the _____ . (Jgs 14:3)
14. Examples of Samson's strength are when he
 - A. _____ (Jgs 14:6)
 - B. _____ (Jgs 15:15)
 - C. _____ (Jgs 16:3)
15. Unable to defeat Samson because of his great strength and aware of his fondness for women, the Philistines enlist the aid of _____ . (Jgs 16:4)
16. How much is she paid to discover the secret of Samson's strength? _____ (Jgs 16:5)
17. After Samson confides in the woman he loves what the secret to his strength is, what does she do?
_____ (Jgs 16:19)
18. Samson has then broken the vow made to God, the vow which gave him his _____ . (Jgs 16:17)
19. Samson, the flawed leader of his people, now blinded, sees the error of his ways and asks God to strengthen him one last time. God again works through an imperfect person to achieve his purpose of saving his people, and so Samson, blinded and weakened but strengthened by God's power, destroys the _____ . (Jgs 16:28-30)
20. Samson differs from the other judges in that, in order to save his own people, he must give up his own _____ . (Jgs 16:30)
21. The time of the judges continued until the Israelites requested one leader, a _____ .