

# Judges Series

## Lesson #15

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**Testing Faith;  
Biblical Leaders  
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

**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. 3:4**, “And they were left, that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the LORD, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.”

נִסֵּה *nasah*

piel infinitiveConst  
to test, try, to prove;  
used 36× in the OT,  
used 3× in *Judges*  
2:22; 3:1, 4

# What the Bible Teaches About

## Temptation and Testing



## **10. Illustrations of Divine testing in Israel.**

- a. Abraham's final test: sacrifice of Isaac, Gen. 22**

**Gen. 22:1, “Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ ”**

**Hebrews 11:10, “for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”**

**Ex. 15:25**, “Then he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree; and he threw it into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and regulation, and there He tested them.”

**Ex. 15:1, “Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: ‘I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!**

**Ex. 15:2, “ ‘The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father’s God, and I will exalt Him.’ ”**

**Ex. 15:11, “Who is like You, O LORD,  
among the gods? Who is like You, glorious  
in holiness, fearful in praises, doing  
wonders?**

**Ex. 15:12, “You stretched out Your right  
hand; The earth swallowed them.”**

**Ex. 15:22, “So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water.**

**Ex. 15:23, “Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah.”**

**Ex. 15:24**, “And the people complained against Moses, saying, ‘What shall we drink?’ ”

**Ex. 15:25**, “So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them,”

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**Ex. 15:26**, “and said, ‘If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you.’ ”

**Ex. 15:27**, “Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

**Ex. 16:1**, “And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt.”

**Ex. 16:2, “Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.**

**Ex. 16:3, “And the children of Israel said to them, ‘Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.’ ”**

**Ex. 16:4, “Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.’ ”**

**Deut. 8:2**, “And you shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.”

**Deut. 8:3**, “**So He humbled** you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that **He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.**

**Deut. 8:4**, “Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.

**Deut. 8:5**, “You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.”

עֲנָה (*ānâ*) III, afflict, oppress, humble

**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 find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

**11. Just as God left enemies inside the land to be a source of temptation/testing to Israel, He has left us with a sin nature that tests and traps us with sin.**

**Judg. 3:6**, “And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods [‘*elohim* = demon-gods.]

**Judg. 3:7**, “So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. They abandoned the Lord their God, and enslaved themselves to the Baals and Asherahs.” [~RD]

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**Deut. 32:17**, “They sacrificed to demons [demon-gods], not to God, to gods [‘*elohim*] they did not know, to new gods [‘*elohim*], new arrivals that your fathers did not fear.”

# **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, אָנְשֵׁי־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.

**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**