

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE FOR 8/27/12 TO 9/2/12

MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2012 Read Judges 3:1-30

Many of Israel's judges would have fit in as guests on any of today's seediest day time TV talk shows. Still, the Lord used each of them- sinners all. As you read, ask yourself whether God still uses less-than-perfect people today.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2012 Read Judges 3:31 to 5:31

The second of seven sin and repentant cycles is recorded in today's reading. We see again Israel's sin, God's judgment, and the people's prayer for help. At Israel's cry, the Lord raises up a deliverer- the judge Deborah. Acting on God's commands, she musters the army that that defeats Jabin and his nine hundred chariots. Note that throughout the account the Lords receives credit for Deborah's victory.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2012 Read Judges 6:1 to 8:35

If the last time you heard the story of Gideon was in Sunday School, hold on to your seat and prepare for an adventure. This judge was outstanding-at first for his doubt and unbelief (Judges 6), then for his faith and valor (Judges 7), and finally for his temper and idolatry (Judges 8). He was far from a paragon of virtue. And yet, all the New Testament records about him is his faithfulness (Hebrews 11:32). His sins have been forgotten, washed away in the blood of the lamb.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2012 Read Judges 9:1 to 10:18

After Gideon (a.k.a Jerub-Baal) died, one of his seventy sons- Abimelech- forges an alliance with the Israelites who live in Shechem. They give him money from the treasury of idol temple to hire some mercenary warriors to kill all his brothers! Chaos and divine judgment follow. The bleak picture heightens in chapter 10 as the Lord leads his people to true repentance.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2012 Read Judges 12:1 to 12:15

The sordid history of Israel during the time of the Judges rolls on, frame by frame. The Lord uses Jephthah to deliver His people from oppression by the armies of Ammon. Even though he's a social outcast, Jephthah knows the Lord, knows His Word, and knows he history of his dealings with Israel (11:15-27). Through Jephthah, the Lord works to preserve the land and His other covenant promises to Israel.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2012 Read Judges 13:1 to 16:31

Even people who've never read the Bible have usually heard of Samson. Of all the judges, he lived, perhaps, the most ungodly life. As you read, look for evidence of the Lord's mercy. As you read, look for evidence of the Lord's mercy- even on sinful Samson. Also look for clues about the source of Samson's strength. (Hint: it wasn't his hair!)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2012 Come to church on Labor Day then catch up on any missed readings.

