

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING COURSE



BIBLE CHARACTER STUDY OLD TESTAMENT:

#8 — Time of the Judges: (Gideon & Samson)

Key Bible Verses for Gideon and Samson:

GIDEON: “And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, “The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!” — Judges 6:12

SAMSON: “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” And he awoke from his sleep and said, “I will go out as at other times and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the LORD had left him.” — Judges 16:20

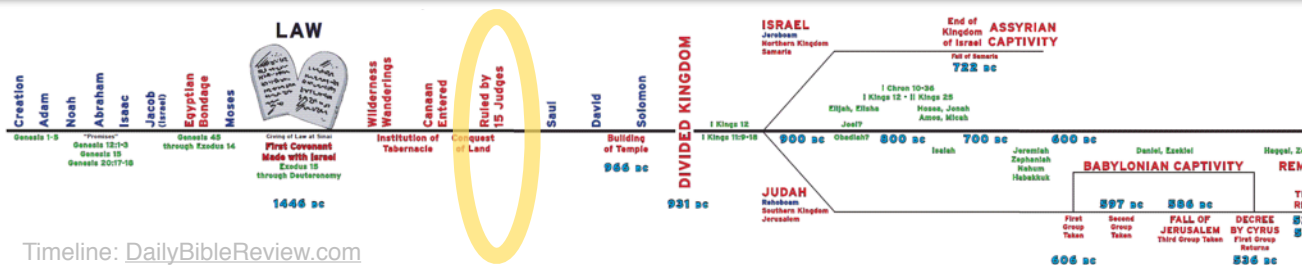
KEYS from the life of Gideon — Judges 6:11 - 8:32

During the time of Gideon, Israel is taken captive by the Midianites — because of their disobedience to God. God calls Gideon a “mighty man of valor” (even when he was afraid, hiding, and threshing wheat in a wine-press). Judges 6:40 — Gideon puts out “Fleeces” for God’s confirmation. (Matthew 12:39 — Jesus warns about seeking signs.) Gideon begins with an army of 32,000, but God brings that number down to only 300. (Gideon obeys God.) Gideon’s 300 each take a torch covered by a clay pot. They “break open” the pot so their lights can SHINE. As believers, we need to OPEN UP OUR MOUTHS and share our faith. We need to be shining LIGHTS for Christ. GIDEON is in Hebrews 11, despite his weaknesses—“O my Lord...I am the least in my father’s house” (Judges 6:15).

KEYS from the life of Samson — Judges, chapters 13 to 16.

Israel taken captive by Philistines — Judges 13:4-5 — Samson called to a holy “Nazarite” vow, from his mother’s womb I Corinthians 6:17-18 — God has called us as Christians to live a HOLY and set-apart life for God. Judges 14:2-3 — Samson took a wife — and ungodly women — from outside of his faith, which led to many troubles. II Corinthians 6:14-16 — Paul warns the New Testament believers, “Do not be unequally yoked...” Judges 14:6, 9; 15:14 — The Spirit of God came upon Samson, He was STRONG (but he had many weaknesses). SAMSON is deceived by DELILAH — His hair is cut (against his vow) — He loses his strength and loses his eyes. Samson asks God for supernatural strength one last time — More Philistines are killed at his death than in his life. SAMSON is in Hebrews 11, despite his strength — and continual disobedience. (In the end, Samson cries out to God.)

BIBLE TIMELINE — Time of the JUDGES in Israel



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The Death of Samson