

# 9

## The Judges

After the redemption from slavery in Egypt, Israelites came to the Promised Land. After they settled there, they had to face many difficulties and oppression, brought about by other nations. To protect Israelites from various foreign invasions and influences, God sent Judges, who were war heroes. The Book of Judges has to say this about appointing of Judges (heroes):

Then the LORD raised up judges, who delivered them out of the power of those who plundered them.

(Judges 2:16)

The period of Israelite Judges was from 1200-1050 B.C. One of the characteristic of the Judges was that their rule was not for the whole of Israelites. Their duty was to gather the Israelites together and take the leadership in wars that were against Israelites.

Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD would be moved to pity by their groaning because of those who persecuted and oppressed them. But whenever the judge died, they would relapse and behave worse than their ancestors, following other gods, worshipping them and bowing down to them. They would not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.

(Judges 2:18-19)

Thus it is clear that they were appointed not only to protect Israelites but also to be with Israelites and to work for their salvation. There are twelve such war heroes in the Holy Bible. They are:

1. Othniel  
2. Ehud  
3. Shamgar  
4. Deborah

5. Gideon  
6. Tola  
7. Jair  
8. Jephthah

9. Ibzan  
10. Elon  
11. Abdon  
12. Samson

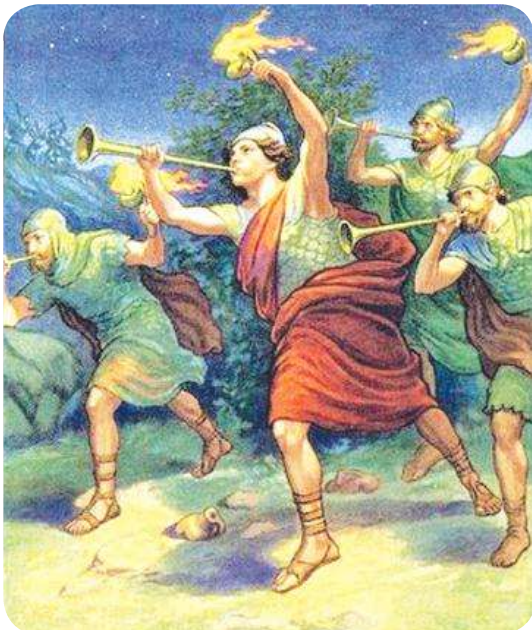
## Deborah, the heroine



9.1 Picture - Deborah, the heroine

She was an intelligent woman. During her time, a Canaanite king harassed the Israelites. Therefore, the Israelites prayed to God. According to the advice of Deborah, Barak led an army of ten thousand against the Canaanite army. When Canaanites learnt that Barak came to the Mount Tabor, they were ready to fight. Deborah encouraged Barak, the commander in chief of Israelite army to fight against the Canaanite army. Due to grace of God, The Israelite army won the war. Deborah explained that the victory is not of the Israelite army but that of God.

## Gideon, the Hero



9.2 Picture - Gideon, the Hero

After a peace period of forty years, Israelites had to undergo persecutions from the Midianites as a punishment for their sins. Since they prayed to God for deliverance, Gideon was called.

The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, you mighty warrior.”

Then the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian; I hereby commission you.

(Judges 6:12, 6:14)

Gideon destroyed all the alters, made by the Israelite for the false gods and gathered people for the war against the Midianites. However, he limited the army to 300 as directed by God. According to the advice of Gideon, the army went to the Midian camp, and broke the jars, holding in their left hands the torches, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow. The God set every man’s sword against his fellow and all killed each other.

### **Samuel, the Judge**



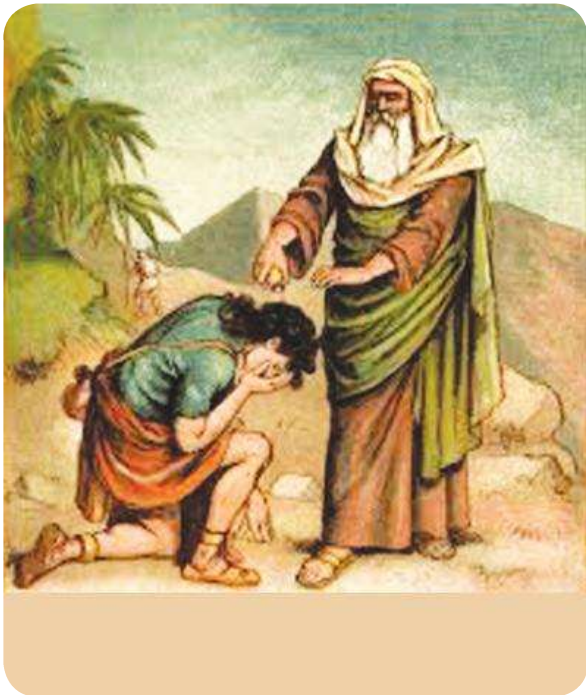
9.3 Picture - Samuel, the Judge

Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. He went on a circuit year by year to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah; and he judged Israel in all these places. Then he would come back to Ramah, for his home was there; he administered justice there to Israel, and built there an altar to the LORD.

(1 Samuel 7:15-17)

Samuel was

- ★ the last judge
- ★ the first prophet
- ★ a priest
- ★ the one who consecrated Saul and David as kings



9.4 Picture - Samuel consecrates Saul



9.5 Picture - Samuel consecrates David

The heroes give the following examples to our lives:

- ★ Work for the betterment of others
- ★ Help when others are in need
- ★ Pray to God when others are in problematic situations
- ★ Believe that God is with us

### Activity



1. Name the twelve heroes.
2. What was the main duty of the heroes?
3. Write three things that you can do for the betterment of others.



**For Life**

Work for the betterment of others