

**Monday, March 21—Judges 4-6**

God raises up Deborah and Barak to defeat Jabin the Canaanite and His general, Sisera; Deborah's song; God raises up Gideon against the Midianites. Notice the prophet's reference to God's covenant relationship to Israel and their failure to hear His Word (Judges 6:8-10);

**Tuesday, March 22—Judges 7, 8**

Gideon subdues the Midianites and delivers Israel from their hand; Gideon rejects the call to be king but sets up an ephod that becomes a stumbling block; immediately upon Gideon's death Israel again forgets the Lord. Notice how the warnings of Deuteronomy are repeatedly fulfilled.

**Wednesday, March 23—Judges 9, 10**

Abimelech, the son of Gideon, kills the seventy sons of Gideon and is made king over the people of Shechem; eventually, however he is overthrown by a revolt of the people of Shechem; the people of Israel continue to forsake the Lord; the Lord continues to provide deliverers, but also declares His displeasure with the people.

**Thursday, March 24—Judges 11-13**

Jephthah rises up as a deliverer of Israel; he overthrows the enemies of Israel, but makes an impulse vow to God to sacrifice as a burnt offering whatever should exit the door of his tent upon his return; tragically it is his daughter, his only child who appears from the tent; although some commentators suggest that her perpetual virginity is the sacrifice that is made it seems clear from the text that Jephthah in fact offered her as a sacrifice; an act indicative of the spiritual and moral decline in Israel. God raises up Samson as a judge in Israel.

**Friday, March 25—Judges 14-16**

The judging exploits of Samson; note the specific reference to the providence of God regarding Samson wanting the Philistine as his wife (14:4). How is Samson a reflection of the Nation of Israel?

**Saturday, March 26—Judges 17-19**

The political confusion and the moral corruption of the tribes of Israel is evident in the account of Micah and his priest, the Danites and the Levite and his concubine. How does the author capture the essence of the issue and the need of the hour? (see Judg. 17:6)

**Sunday, March 27—Judges 20, 21**

The account of Israel's chaotic and corrupted condition ends with the account of the confused situation with the tribe of Benjamin. Rightly does the record conclude with the repeated refrain—*"in those days there was no king in Israel . . ."* The stage is set for the establishment of the monarchy, with a view specifically to the rise of David.