

# Bible Baptist Church

## Adult Bible Study

April 26, 2026

Lesson 5.0



**Text:** Judges 8:24 – 10:18

**Introduction:** In this lesson we are going to see how that Israel falls back into idolatry even at the leaderships of Gideon to Abimelech. Yes, thank the Lord for better leadership, but they are not the one to put are total trust in! People needs to realize that man is not the answer, but God is the only answer.

Let's review Israel's timeline for their judges:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Judge Othniel – 40 years – Judges 3:11 – once gone – back into sin.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Judge Ehud – 80 years – Judges 3:30 – once gone – back into sin.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Shamgar – 1 year – Judges 3:31 – once gone – back into sin.
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Deborah – 40 years – Judges 5:31 – once gone – back into sin.
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Gideon – 40 years – Judges 8:28 – once gone – back into sin.

This was a cycle for a combination of 201 years sinning (idolatry), judgement (punishment), a cry for mercy (repentance) and a deliverer (a judge) was given.....you would think they would learn from this, but sadly it kept on going. **Just like us today!!!**

### **Lesson:**

So let's look at the

- I. **Israel's Decline** – Judges 8:32-35 – Gideon is now off the scene and notice– Judges 8:32-35 - "...as soon as".
  - a. Israel turned again – vrs. 33c – they left what they once had and went back.
  - b. Israel went whoring after baalim – vrs. 33d – notice a couple of things:
    - i. "Whoring" in the Bible primarily refers to spiritual unfaithfulness, where God's people (Israel) are described as abandoning Him to worship false gods, acting like a harlot – Numbers 15:39; II Chronicles 21:13; Psalms 106:39; Ezekiel 20:30; Hosea 9:1 . It means to commit fornication or play the harlot, this metaphor highlights idolatry as a violation of the covenant relationship with God – Exodus 20:3

- ii. “Baalim” - "Baalim" is the Hebrew plural form of Baal, a term meaning "lord" or "owner" used in the Old Testament to refer to local Canaanite fertility and storm gods (it is mentioned approximately 90 times in the Old Testament). It represents the various manifestations of this deity worshiped by Canaanites, Moabites, and Phoenicians (they were considered supreme among Canaanite gods, particularly over nature and agriculture).

Baal worship, an ancient Canaanite fertility religion, centered on controlling agricultural prosperity through imitation and sacrifice to the rain god. Practices included sexual immorality, ritual prostitution, child sacrifice by fire, and ecstatic, self-destructive rituals. Worshipers believed these acts compelled Baal to bring rain, ensuring the fertility of crops, cattle, and humans.

- c. Israel self-appointed king/ruler – Judges 9:1-57 - Here we see Gideon’s son “Abimelech” as the next ruler. He is described as:
  - a. Tyrannical self-appointed king – vrs. 1,2 - rather than a divinely appointed deliverer or judge, he took it upon himself to be the next ruler. But he had 70 brothers that could have been the next leader. Look what he did....
  - b. Treacherous self-appointed king – vrs. 3-5 - he seized power by murdering his brothers (which were 70 of them, except for one of them Jotham, who escaped). This allowed him to be the sole ruler over them.
    - i. He received money (70 pieces of silver) from the Temple of Baal-Berith – vrs. 4 - The temple of Baal-Berith, located in Shechem, was a center of worship for the Canaanite deity that the Israelites had turned to after Gideon’s death. The seventy pieces of silver are seen as a symbolic amount representing the seventy brothers Abimelech murdered.
    - ii. He received a curse from his brother Jotham – vrs. 7-25 – for his murdering his brothers.
    - iii. He ravished Shechem in battle – vrs. 47-51 – he burns the city and kills thousands of inhabitants, demolished the city and gates and then pours salt on the land --- because of their rebellion towards him and to teach them a lesson.
    - iv. His ruin at the battle of Thebez – vrs. 52-57– his failure resulted in his death...
  - c. Timeless self-appointed king – vrs. 52-57 - he was struck in the head by a millstone dropped by a woman during the attack on Thebez and then killed by his armor-bearer to avoid shame.

Note – There is one thing for sure – Galatians 6:7

II. **Israel's strange deliverers** – Judges 10:1-18 Here we see the Lord raise up some additional judges.

a. The judge named Tola – vrs. 1-2 – not much is mentioned about him just:

- i. He was the son of Dodo
- ii. He was from the tribe Issachar
- iii. He lived in Shamir in Mt. Ephraim
- iv. He judged for 23 years and buried Shamir

b. The judge named Jair - vrs. 3-5

- i. He was a Gileadite
- ii. He had 30 sons that rode donkeys and 30 cities which is called Havothjair
- iii. He judged for 22 years and buried in Camon

Note – now an additional 48 years has gone by (Abimelech? – 3 years, Tola – 23 years and Jair – 22 years) and that cycle of sin is still continuing, look at vrs. 6 – they were attracted to these gods:

- Baal – the weather god
  - Ashtoreth – the goddess of fertility – which is associated with lust, sex, romance and fantasies – sounds like the world today!!!
  - Syria's gods – which were Ashur – war/kingship (this is their chief god), Ishtar – love, Anu - sky, Enlil – destiny, Ea/Enki – water/wisdom and Adad – thunder.
  - Zidon gods – the same of Baal and Ashtoreth.
  - Moab gods – Chemosh – military victory or destroyer (this is their chief god)
  - Ammon gods – Amun – air god, Amun-Ra – the sun god,
  - Philistines gods – Dagon – he was part man and fish (this is their chief god) was associated with technology and strong drinking cultures, Ashtoreth - the goddess of fertility – which is associated with lust, sex, romance and fantasies – again sounds like the world today!!!
  - Baal-Zebub – means “lord of the flies” and linked back to Baal.
- c. The judgement from God - Look what happened to them – vrs. 7-9
- The Lord was angry against them – vrs. 7a – there are many scriptures that tell us the Lord's anger was kindled because of their sin – Numbers 12:9; II Kings 17:18; Isaiah 66:15; Hebrews 10:31
    - He sold them into slavery – vrs. 7b – to the Philistines and Ammon.
    - He allowed them to be oppressed and distressed – vrs. 8,9 – for 18 long years.

- He teaches them a lesson – vrs. 10-18 – the children of Israel cries with a pathetic plea and with no remorse.
  - He told them how He was always there to deliver – vrs. 11-12
  - He tells them that He will not help them – vrs. 13
  - He tells them to call on their false gods whom they worship and serve – vrs. 14
  - He sees their true meaningful repentance – vrs. 15-18 – the Lord is getting ready to raise up a new judge to deliver them. Notice how chapter 10 ends with the area of Gilead and then in chapter 11, God raises up a judge in Gilead.

**Conclusion:** Oh how you and I need to understand the importance of true repentance. Thank the Lord that He allows us to come before Him and ask for forgiveness!!!! I John 1:9