

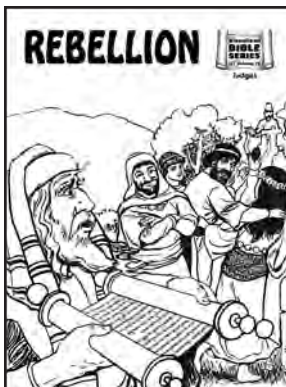
REBELLION

Author: Arlene S. Piepgrass **Illustrator:** Vernon Henkel
Computer Graphic Artist: Kristen Hall
Proofreader: Robyn Anoka
PowerPoint Presentation, Typesetting and Layout: Patricia Pope

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Phone: (717) 859-1131 www.biblevisuals.org

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Lesson 1

GOD'S PEOPLE REBEL

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Judges—a sad book in the Bible—records a dark time in the history of the Israelites. “They forsook [turned from] the Lord God of their fathers . . . and served Baal and Ashtaroth” (Judges 2:12-13).

The people of Israel had experienced: (1) God’s miraculous deliverance from slavery in Egypt (recorded in Exodus); (2) His guidance and provision in the wilderness (explained in Numbers); and (3) His power in giving them the land He had promised them (told in the book of Joshua).

Before Moses died, God promised to exalt His people *if* they would obey His commandments (Deuteronomy 28:1-14). He also warned them of punishment for disobedience (Deuteronomy 28:15).

Under the leadership of Joshua, the Israelites were victorious over and exalted above the heathen nations in Canaan (Judges 2:7). After Joshua died, the new generation disobeyed the Lord (Judges 2:10-13). They lived as did the wicked people in Canaan, married them, and even worshiped their false gods.

To punish them, God permitted enemy nations to master the people of Israel. When the Israelites were genuinely sorry for their sin, they repented and prayed to the Lord for forgiveness. Then He caused leaders—called “judges”—to rescue them from those who had overpowered them.

This became a cycle which was repeated seven times in

some 330 years (Judges 2:11-19; 3:5-11; 3:12-15; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1).

THE ISRAELITES

(1) Turned from God (Rebellion), (2) Disciplined by God, (3) Repented—Asking God for Forgiveness, and (4) Pardoned by God and peace form God.

Refer repeatedly to this illustration (inside back cover). If possible, print appropriate words at each number.

Twice in the book of Judges we read, “Every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6; 21:25). In other words, the Israelite people whom God lovingly chose for Himself, rebelled against Him. Because of His fatherly love for them, the Lord had to discipline His children.

The lessons contained in the book of Judges are also for us today. We, too, must choose to obey God if we are to have His blessing. When believers forget the Lord, refuse to obey His Word, and fail to live holy lives, they are guilty of rebelling against Him. For this—and all sin—God the Father disciplines (child-trains) His own (Hebrews 12:5-15).

From the times of the judges we learn also of the longsuffering, love, patience, and grace of God. When we turn from Him, He waits to hear our sincere prayer for forgiveness and to give us a new beginning. (See Psalm 106:44-45; 1 John 1:9.)

Scripture to be studied: Judges 1:1-5:31; Deuteronomy 28:1-68; Psalm 106:34-48; verses cited in lesson.

The aim of the lesson: To show that turning away from God causes misery and trouble.

What your students should know: The Lord hears and answers those who genuinely repent and return to Him.

What your students should feel: A desire to obey God and His Word.

What your students should do: Correct habits and attitudes which are contrary to the commands of God.

Lesson outline for the teacher’s and students’ notebooks:

Introduction (Deuteronomy 7:1-6; 28:1-68; Judges 2:11-13; 3:5-7; Psalm 106:34-48).

1. Discipline for rebellious Israelites (Judges 4:1-2; 5:6-8).
2. The Israelites repent and turn to God (Judges 4:3-5).
3. God pardons the Israelites (Judges 4:6-24; 5:20-22).
4. The Israelites praise God (Judges 5:1-31).

The verse to be memorized:

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Proverbs 14:12)