



Book

— **By** —

Book



JUDGES

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GOD AT WORK IN THE MIDDLE OF APATHY, APOSTASY, & ANARCHY

In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes. Judges 17:6

REMEMBER THE WARNINGS FROM MOSES AND JOSHUA?

“But watch out! Be careful _____ to _____ what you yourself have seen. Do not let these _____ from your mind as long as you live! And be sure to _____ on to your children and grandchildren.” *Deuteronomy 4:9*

“But if you turn away from him and _____ of these nations remaining among you, and _____, then know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive them out of your land. Instead, _____, a whip for your backs and thorny brambles in your eyes, and you will vanish from this good land the Lord your God has given you.” *Joshua 23:12-13*

ANOTHER GENERATION

After that generation died, **another generation grew up** who did not _____ the Lord or _____ the mighty things he had done for Israel. The Israelites did _____ in the Lord’s sight and _____ the images of Baal. They _____ the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They went after other gods, _____ the gods of the people around them. And they angered the Lord. *Judges 2:10-11*

So the people of Israel lived _____ the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, and they _____ with them. Israelite sons married their daughters, and Israelite daughters were given in marriage to their sons. And the Israelites _____ their _____. *Judges 3:5*

350 YEARS OF THE SIN/DISTRESS/DELIVERANCE CYCLE

Whenever the Lord raised up a judge over Israel, he was with that judge and rescued the people from their enemies throughout the judge's lifetime. For the Lord took pity on his people, who were burdened by _____ and _____.

But when the judge died, the people returned to their _____ ways, behaving _____ than those who had lived before them. They went after other gods, serving and worshiping them. And they _____ to give up their evil practices and _____ ways. *Judges 2:18-19*

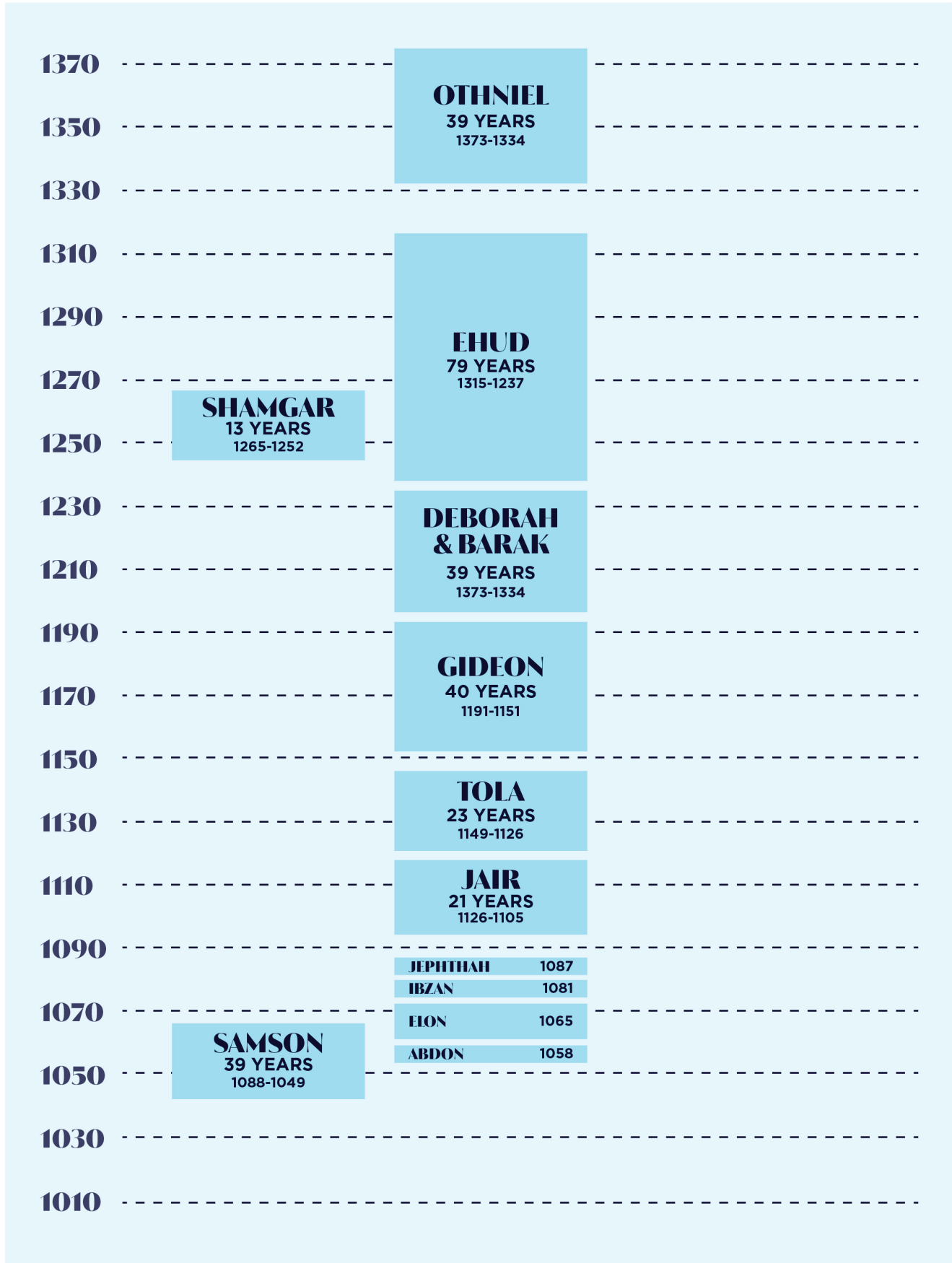
A FEW THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

There are times in our lives when we see or hear things we wish we could un-see or un-hear. The book of Judges is an account we might wish we could either change or avoid. It's difficult to read about the absolute evil committed by God's chosen people, even some of the individuals God used to bring relief during this time. It began during a time of peace and prosperity, which seemed to give birth to complacency, ungratefulness, and unfaithfulness to the God who had rescued them and blessed them so abundantly.

Even though it seems unimaginable that Israel would forsake God and adopt as their own the pagan worship and practices of the Canaanites as we see in this account, perhaps in examining the stories in the book of Judges, we can take to heart how important it is for us to stay close in our relationship with God and be careful not to get caught up and carried away by all the deceptions, pressures, and temptations of our culture.

An even more chilling realization is how a generation who promised their loyalty and love for God failed to pass that faith on to their children and grandchildren. Those who are the most precious to us are relying on us (whether they realize it or not) to teach them about who God is and how they can have a personal relationship with him. They need to know that God loves them and that they can call on him as they live their lives in this very unstable world. They won't get that from any video game or cartoon. It's up to us as parents and grandparents to be diligent and not let opportunities pass us by.

A TIMELINE OF THE JUDGES



OTHNIEL

JUDGES 3:9-11

What was Othniel's relationship to Caleb?

How long did Israel serve under the king of Aram?

What enemy did Othniel lead Israel to defeat?

What was the power that allowed Othniel to defeat the enemy?

How long was there peace in the land?

EHUD

JUDGES 3:12-30

What foreign powers gained control over Israel in this time?

Which city in Israel did they take possession of?

How long was Israel in servitude to Eglon?

What did the people do that prompted God to send help?

What tribe was Ehud from?

After the victory described in chapter 3, how many years did the land enjoy peace?

SHAMGAR

JUDGES 3:31

What do we know about Shamgar?

What enemy did he fight?

DEBORAH/BARAK

JUDGES 4-5

What time marker are we given in Judges 4:1?

What is the name of the Canaanite king who ruled over Israel in this time?

What was the name of that king's commander?

What did he have to use against Israel?

How did he treat them?

How long did that oppression last?

At what time did the people call on God for help?

What do we know about Deborah?

Who was Barak? Where did he live?

What instructions did God give to Barak?

How did Barak answer this command?

Where did the battle take place?

How many warriors did Barak have? From which tribes?

Who is Heber and who is his wife? Where did they live?

Who caused Sisera's chariots and warriors into a panic?

What unusual weapons did Jael use to defeat Sisera?

How long was there peace in the land after this victory?

GIDEON

JUDGES 6-8

What people group oppressed Israel during this time?

How long had they been oppressing Israel?

In what specific way did they cause distress?

In Judges 6:7, what did the people do that prompted God to respond?

In response, God sent someone. What message did he bring?

When they cried out to the Lord because of Midian, the Lord sent a prophet to the Israelites. He said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of slavery in Egypt. I _____ you from the _____ and from _____ who _____ you. I drove out your _____ and _____ you their _____. I told you, ‘I am the Lord your God. You must not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you now live.’ But you have not _____ to me.”

Who is Gideon?

Where was Gideon when the angel of the Lord visited and why was he there?

In Judges 6:13, it seems Gideon has a complaint against God. What accusation did he make?

What assignment did the angel of the Lord give Gideon?

Even though we are called to fight a different battle than Gideon was, is there a lesson for us in the Lord's admonition to Gideon in Judges 6:14?

Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with the _____ you _____, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"

Judges 6:14

GOD'S PROMISES TO GIDEON

Judges 6:12

The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, _____ _____ _____!"

Judges 6:16

The Lord said to him, "_____ _____ _____. And _____ _____ _____ as if you were fighting against one man."

Judges 6:18

"Don't go away until I come back and bring my offering to you." He answered, "I will _____ _____ _____."

Judges 6:23

"It is all right," the Lord replied. "Do not be afraid. _____ _____ _____."

Judges 7:7

The Lord told Gideon, "With these 300 men I will _____ _____ and _____ _____ over the Midianites. Send all the others home."

Judges 7:9

That night the Lord said, "Get up! Go down into the Midianite camp, for I have given you _____ _____ _____!"

GIDEON CHALLENGES GOD

Judges 6:17

Gideon replied, "If you are truly going to help me, show me a _____ to _____ that it is really the Lord speaking to me."

Judges 6:36-37

Then Gideon said to God, "If you are truly going to use me to rescue Israel as you promised, _____ in this way. I will put a wool fleece on the threshing floor tonight. If the fleece is _____ with dew in the morning but the ground is _____, then I will know that you are going to help me rescue Israel as you promised."

Judges 6:39

Then Gideon said to God, "Please don't be angry with me, but let me make one more request. Let me use the fleece for one more test. This time let the fleece remain _____ while the ground around it is _____ with dew."

GIDEON'S FEARS

The Midianites

Then the angel of the Lord came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to _____ the grain from the _____.

Judges 6:11

The Angel Of The Lord

When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he cried out, "Oh, Sovereign Lord, I'm _____! I have seen the angel of the Lord _____ to _____!" *Judges 6:22*

His Relatives & Neighbors

So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord had commanded. But he did it at night because he was _____ of the other members of his father's _____ and the _____ of the town. *Judges 6:27*

To Attack

But if you are _____ to _____, go down to the camp with your servant Purah. Listen to what the Midianites are saying, and you will be greatly _____. Then you will be _____ to attack.” So Gideon took Purah and went down to the edge of the enemy camp. *Judges 7:10-11*

Just before the battle, Gideon bowed in worship before the Lord (7:15). Look for other examples of thanksgiving or worship after the battles were won.

What is his spiritual legacy to the people God called him to rescue?

How many years of peace did the people enjoy under Gideon?

ABIMELECH, KING OF SHECHEM

Who was Abimelech? Who was his mother?

What did he do to his half brothers?

Which brother escaped?

How long did Abimelech rule in Shechem?

How did Abimelech die?

TOLA
JUDGES 10:1-2

When did Tola begin judging Israel?

What tribe was he from?

Where did he live?

How long did he judge?

JAIR
JUDGES 10:3-5

When did Jair begin judging Israel? For how long?

How many sons did he have and what did they ride?

They had ownership of how many towns and what were they called?

Where was he buried?

18 YEARS OF GREAT DISTRESS (JUDGES 10:6-9)

Again the Israelites did _____ in the Lord's sight. They served the _____ of Baal and Ashtoreth, and the gods of Aram, Sidon, Moab, Ammon, and Philistia. They _____ the Lord and no longer _____ him at all.

Judges 10:6

REPENTANCE, BUT TOO LATE??

_____, they _____ out to the Lord for help, saying, “We have _____ against you because we have _____ you as our God and have _____ the images of Baal.”

The Lord replied, “Did I not rescue you from the Egyptians, the Amorites, the Ammonites, the Philistines, the Sidonians, the Amalekites, and the Maonites? When they _____ you, you _____ out to me for help, and I _____ you. Yet you have _____ me and _____ other gods. So I will not rescue you anymore. _____ and _____ to the gods you have _____! Let them _____ you in your hour of _____!”

But the Israelites _____ with the Lord and said, “We have sinned. _____ us as you see fit, only _____ us _____ from our _____.” Then the Israelites put aside their foreign gods and served the Lord. And he was _____ by their _____.

JEPHTHAH

JUDGES 11:1-12:7

Where was Jephthah from?

Who were his parents?

What was he known as?

Where was he living and why?

Who sent for him when Ammonites attacked?

How did he answer?

The elders of Gilead made him _____ and _____ of the army.

The Ammonites claimed Israel had taken their land. How did Jephthah respond?

This is classic!

You _____ whatever your god Chemosh gives you, and we will
_____ whatever the Lord our God gives us. *Judges 11:24*

Jephthah's Terrible Vow (Judges 11:29-40)

Civil War (Judges 12:1-6)

How many years did Jephthah judge Israel?

IBZAN
JUDGES 12:8-10

When did Ibzan begin judging Israel?

How many sons and daughters did he have?

What kind of marriages did he arrange for them and why does it matter?

How long did he judge Israel?

Where was he buried?

ELON
JUDGES 12:11-12

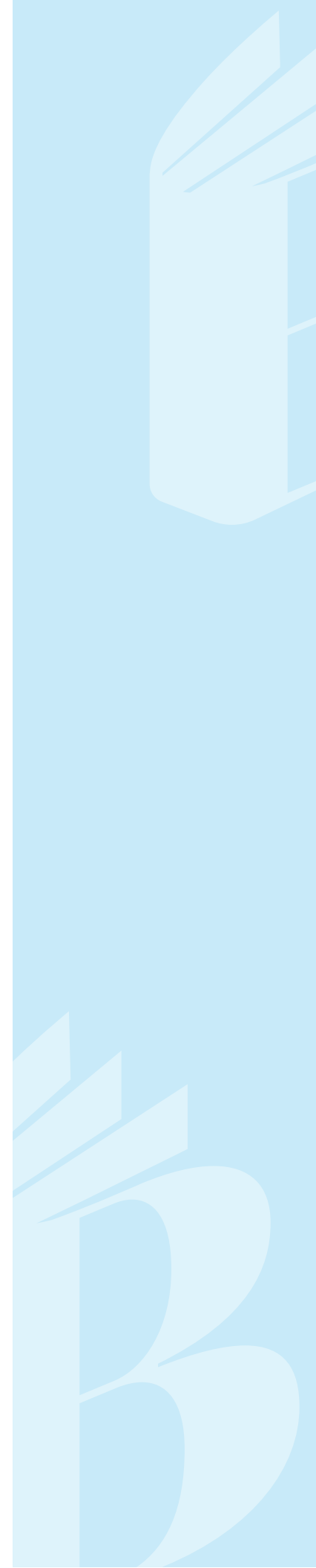
What do we know about Elon?

How long did he judge Israel?

ABDON
JUDGES 12:13-15

When did Abdon begin to judge Israel? For how long?

How many sons and daughters?



SAMSON

JUDGES 13-16

Again the Israelites did _____ in the Lord's sight, so the Lord handed them over to the _____, who oppressed them for _____ years. *Judges 13:1*

Who were Samson's parents? What tribe were they from?

Who appeared to Manoah's wife?

What instructions were given?

APPOINTED TO JUDGE BEFORE CONCEPTION

You will become pregnant and give birth to a _____, and his hair must never be cut. For he will be _____ to God as a Nazirite from _____. He will begin to rescue _____ from the _____." *Judges 13:5*

Describe Samson's riddle and how it came about.

What happened to Samson's Philistine wife? (Judges 14:20-15:6)

What weapon did Samson use against the Philistines in Judges 15:14-17?

How many years did Samson judge Israel?

DELILAH & SAMSON'S BIGGEST MISTAKE

Then she cried out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" When he woke up, he thought, "I will _____ as _____ and shake myself free." But he didn't _____ the Lord had _____ him. *Judges 16:20*

SAMSON'S LAST PRAYER

Then Samson prayed to the Lord, "Sovereign Lord, _____ me again. O God, _____ strengthen me just one more time. With one blow let me pay back the Philistines for the loss of my two eyes." Then Samson put his hands on the two center pillars that held up the temple. Pushing against them with both hands, he _____, "Let me _____ with the _____." And the temple crashed down on the Philistine rulers and all the people. So he killed more people when he died than he had during his entire lifetime.

MICAH & THE DANITES

JUDGES 17-18

ALTHOUGH THESE CHAPTERS ARE ARRANGED AT THE END OF THE BOOK, NOTICE THE REFERENCE TO THE GRANDSONS OF AARON AND MOSES, WHICH DATES THESE EVENTS EARLY IN THIS PERIOD.

Who is Micah?

What did he do?

Where was the Levite from and why did he leave?

What job did Micah give the Levite?

How did the warriors happen to meet Micah and the Levite?

What did the Danites take from Micah?

What town did the Danites attack and conquer? What did they rename it?

How long did the tribe of Dan worship Micah's carved image?

THE LEVITE & HIS CONCUBINE

JUDGES 19

The Levite

The Concubine

The Concubine's Father

The Old Man

The Crowd Of Troublemakers

CIVIL WAR

JUDGES 20

A GREAT ASSEMBLY TO HEAR WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND MAKE A PLAN.

(JUDGES 20:1-11)

FIRST, THEY DEMANDED THE TROUBLEMAKERS BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE

The Israelites sent messengers to the tribe of Benjamin, saying, “What a terrible thing has been done among you! Give up those evil men, those troublemakers from Gibeah, so we can execute them and purge Israel of this evil.”

Judges 20:12-13

THE RESPONSE

But the people of Benjamin would not listen. Instead, they came from their towns and gathered at Gibeah to fight the Israelites. *Judges 20:13-14*

Record the number of casualties for each side in verses 19 through 25.

WEEPING & FASTING BEFORE THE LORD

Then all the Israelites went up to Bethel and wept in the _____ of the Lord and _____ until evening. They also brought burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord. The Israelites went up seeking _____ from the Lord. (In those days the Ark of the Covenant of God was in Bethel, and Phinehas son of Eleazar and grandson of Aaron was the priest.) The Israelites asked the Lord, “Should we _____ against our _____ from Benjamin again, or should we _____?”

The Lord said, “Go! Tomorrow I will hand them over to you.” *Judges 20:26-28*

A NEW STRATEGY (20:29-48)

THE MISSING TRIBE?

JUDGES 21

*BECAUSE OF THIS GREAT EVIL THAT WAS DONE AND THE WAR THAT FOLLOWED,
THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN WOULD BE WIPED OUT COMPLETELY.*

The people devised a diabolical plan. (Judges 21:8-24)

THE TIME OF THE JUDGES FOUND IN THE BOOK OF PSALMS

PSALM 106:34-46

- ³⁴ Israel failed to _____ the nations in the land,
as the Lord had commanded them.
- ³⁵ Instead, they _____ among the _____
and _____ their evil _____.
- ³⁶ They _____ their idols,
which led to their _____.
- ³⁷ They even sacrificed their _____
and their _____ to the _____.
- ³⁸ They shed _____ blood,
the blood of their sons and daughters.
By _____ them to the idols of Canaan,
they polluted the land with _____.
- ³⁹ They _____ themselves by their evil deeds,
and their _____ of idols was _____ in the Lord's sight.
- ⁴⁰ That is why the Lord's anger burned against his people,
and he _____ his own special _____.
- ⁴¹ He handed them over to _____ nations,
and they were _____ by those who _____ them.
- ⁴² Their enemies _____ them
and brought them under their _____ power.
- ⁴³ Again and again he _____ them,
but they _____ to _____ against him,
and they were finally _____ by their _____.
- ⁴⁴ Even so, he _____ them in their _____
and _____ to their _____.
- ⁴⁵ He _____ his _____ with them
and _____ because of his _____.
- ⁴⁶ He even caused their _____
to treat them with _____.

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