

3rd Quarter – Week 12

(Spiritual Downfall – Gideon - Samson)

<p>Day 1 Judges 6</p>	<p>Key Thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. Because of their sin, the Lord delivers them into the hand of Midian for seven years. The Midianites bring death and destruction causing Israel to cry out to the Lord for relief (6:1-6). • God sends an unnamed prophet to remind Israel how He delivered them out of Egypt. He admonishes them for failing to obey. The Angel of the Lord then appears to Gideon who is thrashing wheat secretly in a winepress to hide the food from the Midianites. The Angel calls Gideon to deliver Israel despite his excuses. Gideon asks for a sign and the Angel of the Lord consumes Gideon's sacrifice as a sign (6:7-24). • Gideon tears down his father's altar to Baal and offers a sacrifice to God. The towns people are furious with him, but his father defends him. Gideon then rallies an army from four tribes. He asks God twice for a sign using a wool fleece. God grants his wish both times (6:25-40). <p>Jesus Christ: The Angel of the Lord is a pre-incarnate Jesus Christ.</p>
<p>Day 2 Judges 7</p>	<p>Key Thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gideon gathers his army of 32,000 men to begin reducing the number as commanded by God. The first test, anyone who is afraid is told to go home, and 22,000 men leave. Next, the water test, anyone kneeling to drink losing sight of their surroundings is sent home. Only 300 men remain to fight (7:1-8). • God reassures Gideon when he spies on the Midianite Camp and hears a soldier describing his dream. It is a message from God of certain victory for Gideon (7:9-14). • Gideon worships God and returns to camp and divides the 300 men into three groups equipped with trumpets, empty jars, and torches. At midnight, they surround the camp blowing the trumpets, smashing the jars and flashing the torches. The Midianites panic attacking each other and then flee (7:15-23). <p>Jesus Christ: The work of Christ does not rely on human strength.</p>
<p>Day 3 Judges 8</p>	<p>Key Thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gideon confronts internal conflict and vows revenge. After pursuing and routing the remaining Midianites, he returns and punishes the elders of Succoth. He then tears down the tower of Peniel and kills the men of the city. Gideon executes the two kings. The Israelites try to make Gideon a king. He refuses but proceeds to act like one. He gathers the spoils and creates a gold ephod which leads Israel back into idolatry (8:1-28). • Gideon lives out his days in wealth with a harem of wives. He dies at an old age, and Israel quickly turns back to worshipping Baal. <p>Jesus Christ: Gideon delivered Israel with his many imperfections. Jesus Christ is the perfect Deliverer.</p>

<p>Day 4 Judges 9</p>	<p>Key Thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gideon's son, Abimelech convinces his mother's relations in Shechem to make him the next ruler. He has his 70 half – brothers murdered and only one escapes. Jotham shouts out a prophecy of Abimelech and Shechem's coming destruction by fire (9:1-21). • After three years, the people of Shechem turn against Abimelech. Abimelech learns of the plot to overthrow him, and he uses military ambushes to drive out the leader of the plot. He then massacres the inhabitants of Shechem, and burns to death the leaders, which is a fulfillment of the prophecy of Judgment by fire (9:22-49). • Abimelech moves to take the city of Thebez. As he readies to burn the tower where the people are hiding, a woman drops a millstone on his head. Injured, he asks his armor-bearer to end his life. The wickedness of Abimelech is repaid by God (9:50-57). <p>Jesus Christ: Abimelech took power by shedding his brothers' blood. Jesus willingly shed his own blood for His people.</p>
<p>Day 5 Judges 10-11</p>	<p>Key Thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two judges rise up, Tola and Jair. God provides internal peace for many years. Following their deaths, the people of Israel commit massive apostasy. They worship seven foreign gods. God sends judgment through the Philistines and Amorites who oppress them for 28 years (10:1-9). • Israel cries out for help and God answers mocking them by telling Israel to ask their false gods for deliverance. Israel responds by confessing their sins, removing the false idols and serving the Lord. The Amorites prepare to go to war with Israel and Israel has no leader (10:10-18). • The outcast, Jephthah, returns to be the commander to fight the Amorites. Jephthah tries diplomacy but it fails. He then makes a vow if God gives him victory he will sacrifice whatever comes out of his house first, tragically it is his daughter (11:1-40). <p>Jesus Christ: Jephthah's worldly vow resulted in a tragic sacrifice. Jesus' sacrifice is the perfect planned sacrifice.</p>
<p>Day 6 Judges 12-13</p>	<p>Key Thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The men of Ephraim again are upset they were not called to fight, and they threaten to burn Jephthah's house. He is angered and kills 42,000 Ephraimites including those who tried to escape but could not pronounce the word "Shibboleth" correctly. Jephthah dies and the last of the judges who helped Israel enjoy peace are listed (12:1-5). • Israel sins and falls into the hands of the Philistines. God informs Manoah's wife she will bear a Nazarite son who will help Israel with the Philistines. Manoah asks for the Angel to return and instruct them on the raising of the promised son. The Angel returns offers instructions and Manoah offers a great sacrifice; Samson is then born (13:1-25). <p>Jesus Christ: Samson was set apart from the womb. Jesus was set apart from conception by the Holy Spirit.</p>