

Bible History Puzzle 73

The Israelites were living like there was no God, and because the Lord was so _____ with them they thought that he would not punish their evil. How frightened they were when suddenly the king of Mesopotamia invaded the land with his soldiers. Instead of fighting bravely they didn't dare to do anything. The strange soldiers stole everything. They took all the ripe grain and picked all the ripe grapes. They took all the cows out of the fields to _____. This happened for eight years!

The Israelites became very poor. They did not have enough to eat. And they were very sad. But, they started to listen to the few who still loved the Lord. Then they saw how they had done wrong. They destroyed their idols and prayed to the Lord if He would rid them of these enemies and forgive their _____.

The Lord heard them and helped them. He called Othniel, an Israelite who loved the Lord, and made him a judge. A judge had to rule Israel. The Lord gave Othniel wisdom and courage.

Othniel called the men to pick up their weapons and to come, and they went to meet the enemies. The Lord gave them the victory. The strange _____ were chased out of the land. Then they were free again. For the rest of Othniel's life it went well. But when he died, the Israelites started worshiping _____ again.

Then a worse punishment came! The Moabites invaded the land. Their king, Eglon was his name, went to live in Jericho. Everywhere the Moabites came to steal. If a farmer would not give his cows up they would kill him! Every year after the harvest they needed to bring a huge _____ to King Eglon. They barely had anything left for themselves.

And so the Moabites were rich and the Israelites were poor. This lasted for 18 years. They were slaves of the Moabites, and that was their own fault, because they had left the Lord. But then they called out to the Lord for _____ and forgiveness again, and again He raised up a judge. This one was named Ehud. He was a leader of the Israelites who had brought the gift to King Eglon every year.

One year, he went back to the palace and he asked to speak to the king alone. "I need to tell you a secret," he said.

"Come back here. Everybody leave the room!" The king commanded. When they were alone the king asked, "What is the secret?" He bent forward and before the king realized what was happening Ehud stuck a hidden _____ right into the king's belly. Then he hurried away. Much later, the servants of the king realized that he was dead! Ehud came back with a strong army and killed 10,000 Moabites. So he freed the people in the name of the Lord from the enemies. The Lord had delivered them again. How good the Lord was! Would they listen now?

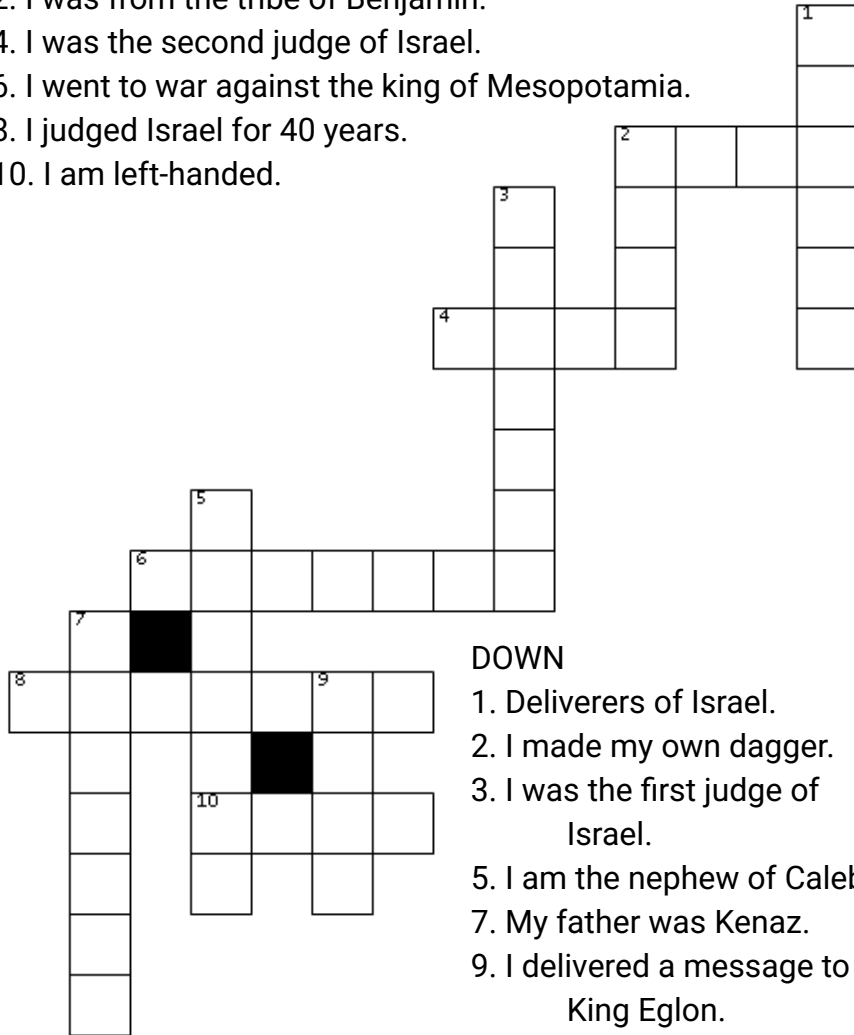
Word Bank

sins gift sword help soldiers eat idols patient



ACROSS

- 2. I was from the tribe of Benjamin.
- 4. I was the second judge of Israel.
- 6. I went to war against the king of Mesopotamia.
- 8. I judged Israel for 40 years.
- 10. I am left-handed.



DOWN

- 1. Deliverers of Israel.
- 2. I made my own dagger.
- 3. I was the first judge of Israel.
- 5. I am the nephew of Caleb.
- 7. My father was Kenaz.
- 9. I delivered a message to King Eglon.

About the Philistines

The Philistines were one of the enemies of Israel we read about in the book of Judges.

From which son of Noah did the Philistines descend? (Genesis 10:6-14) _____

What were the five major cities of the Philistines? (Joshua 13:3) _____

What three major gods did the Philistines worship? (Judges 16:23; II Kings 1:2; I Samuel 31:10) _____

Find all the hidden words. Then read the leftover letters (left-to-right, top-to-bottom) to reveal a hidden message.

T	H	E	S	W	O	R	D	L	J	D
O	R	D	R	B	A	I	S	E	U	D
U	P	A	A	D	E	L	I	H	D	V
E	R	O	T	H	N	I	E	L	G	E
R	M	D	E	L	I	V	E	R	E	R

Find these words:

- Ehud
- Moab
- Judge
- Sword
- Othniel
- Deliverer

Hidden phrase: (discover it from the leftover letters)