

Course Title: The Book of Judges: A Window into the Early Prophets

Instructor: Dr. Yosefa (Fogel) Wruble

Course Description: Through diversified study of selected narratives in the book of Judges, we will gain a panoramic glimpse of its central motifs and messages, many of which will inform further study of Torah and the early prophets. This course will help broaden the teacher’s understanding of the biblical world and make use of pedagogic and online tools useful for their own classroom instruction.

Course requirements:

- 1) **Internal unit assignments (HP):** Each module includes multiple interactive exercises to reinforce the unit. Some of these appear at the units end as opinion questions as well. Students will receive a grade for completion of these assignments which will be integrated into the final course grade. **(25%)**
- 2) **General unit assignments:** A longer homework assignment appears at the end of several modules. The goal of these assignments is to broaden the student’s academic horizons and practice critical reading skills surrounding real life issues relevant to the lives of students. The averaged grade of these assignments will comprise **40%** of the final course grade. **(40%)**
- 3) **Final assignment:** This assignment completed at the end of the course asks the students to choose a unit/book not spotlighted in the course and create their own virtual learning experience based on the study method illustrated in each course module (Introduction, Writing Style, Themes, Who’s Who, Virtual Tours, Reinforcement assignment). This assignment aims to reinforce all that has been learned in the course and will comprise **35%** of the final course grade. **(35%)**

Topics:

Unit 1: Introduction: Transitioning from Joshua to the Judges
Unit 2: Synchronous Meeting
Unit 3: The Cycle of Sin and the First Judges (Otniel and Ehud)
Unit 4: Will the Real Judge Please Stand Up? (Jud. 4-5)
Unit 5: Gideon the King? (Jud. 6-7)
Unit 6: Avimelech – The Reign of Terror
Unit 7: Yiftach the Judge – Watch Your Words (Jud. 11-12)
Unit 8: The Birth of Shimshon (Jud. 13)
Unit 9: Shimshon the Hero? (Jud. 14-16)
Unit 10: In Those Days There Was No King in Israel (Jud. 19-21)
Unit 11: Synchronous Meeting
Unit 12: Rut as a Moral Alternative

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