

14.16 Eleventh Judge, Elon (Judges 12:11, 12)

(A composite lesson of the last three briefly-noted judges is Lesson 14:17a.)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *peace*: the resting of the soul in God

Scripture: (ESV)

Judges 12:11 After him Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel, and he judged Israel ten years. 12 Then Elon the Zebulunite died and was buried at Aijalon in the land of Zebulun.

Numbers 26:26 The sons of Zebulun according to their families: of Sered, the family of the Seredites; of Elon, the family of the Elonites; of Jahleel, the family of the Jahleelites.

Introduction/Review:

Little-known Judge Ibzan ministered to Israel ten years near the town of Bethlehem. He judged ten years.

Story:

After Ibzan, the eleventh judge was Elon, a Zebulunite. What does that mean? Listen for a tribe name. From what tribe was he? [Zebulun; locate.] This is the tribe from which Barak also came; Barak was the soldier whom Deborah commissioned to fight against the Canaanites.

Although we learn that Elon’s ancestors from Zebulun had a family with his name—Elonites—nothing exciting is told us about Elon, not even a tidbit about his children. His time as judge was not marked by fighting an enemy, nor is anything noted about the work he did. Yet, as Matthew Henry, a Bible commentator has said, “The happiest life of individuals, and the happiest state of society, is that which affords the fewest remarkable events. To live in credit and quiet, to be peacefully useful to those around us, to possess a clear conscience; but, above all, and without which nothing can avail, to enjoy communion with God our Saviour while we live, and to die at peace with God and man, form the substance of all that a wise man can desire” (<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/judges/12-12.htm>). In other words, our happiest times are when we live in quietness and in peace with God and man.

He judged Israel ten years and was buried in Aijalon in Zebulun. This is a hard question, but what special thing took place at Aijalon when Israel fought for the Gibeonites soon after they entered the Promised Land? [Joshua commanded the sun to stand still here so that Israel could complete its battle.]

“It is remarkable that the two names *Elon* and *Aijalon* are identical in Hebrew as far as the consonants are concerned” (<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/judges/12-12.htm>). *Aijalon* means a gazelle.

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:

Considering Christ from the quotation by Matthew Henry, we know we have peace in the Lord Jesus Christ if we are His—if He has saved us from our sins.

Activities:

- Play dough: the letters *E L O N*
- Snack: Elon's name sounds a bit like *eggs*. How about deviled eggs for a snack?
- Sing the names of the judges to the tune, "Ten Little Indians."
Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah,
Gideon, Abimelech, Tola, Jair,
Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon,
Samson, and Samuel.
- Review questions: (Game: Using letters from Elon's name found below, play the same game as with Ibzan's name by placing a letter in a pocket chart for each correct answer. Unscramble the letters.)
 1. Who was the twelfth judge? [Elon.]
 2. How long did Elon judge? [Ten years.]
 3. Elon was from the tribe of Zebulun. Who was the other judge—well, the soldier who helped Judge Deborah—and was from this same tribe? [Barak.]
 4. Elon was buried in Aijalon. What had happened when Joshua fought there? [The sun had stood still.]

Memory Verse[s]:

- John 14:27—[Jesus said,] "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Handwork:

- For each student print John 14:27 as found at <https://i.pinimg.com/736x/28/f8/cc/28f8ccbb07178fdee3f63c7e63b3f1a1--uplifting-thoughts-inspirational-thoughts.jpg>. Make a small red heart to glue over the word *hearts*.

peace



Elon (unknown source)



A Gazelle (https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/fc/Slender-horned_gazelle_%28Cincinnati_Zoo%29.jpg/1200px-Slender-horned_gazelle_%28Cincinnati_Zoo%29.jpg)



E

L

O

N