

**X. Parenthesis 3: The Governorships of Ibzan, Elon, Abdon (12:8-15)**

JUDGE	OPPRESSOR	PERIOD OF OPPRESSION	PERIOD OF REST	BIBLICAL REFERENCE
Ibzan			7 years	Judges 12:8-10
Elon			10 years	Judges 12:11-12
Abdon			8 years	Judges 12:13-15

*What can we learn about each of these three judges from the text?*

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**XI. The Philistine and Samson Cycle (13:1 – 16:31)**

**Miraculous Birth and Monastic Life (13:1-25)**

**Whose Eyes Matter?**

*Judges 13:1*

*How will your life this week reflect the truth that God's eyes matter more than yours?*

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*What three things, other than God, do you spend most time thinking about; become most excited about; care most about? How could these things become idols to you? How can you spot it happening?*

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*Why are self-defined standards so dangerous?*

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**You Will Have a Son**

*Judges 13:2-5*

*What was unique about the circumstances of Samson's birth?*

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*What is a Nazirite vow? What is its purpose?*

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*How did Samson's mother react when she was told what would happen?*

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*What difference does it make to our obedience when we act out of faith in God's promises, rather than an unwillingness to obey?*

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*How did Samson's father, Manoah, react to this news?*

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*Are there ways in which you are not enjoying your relationship with God because you would rather have some regulations to follow?*

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