# Choose you this day!

How important are our choices?

Deut 32: 44-47

What about *nature vs nurture*?

What was to serve as a witness against them? (Joshua 24:27)

Deut 31:19, 26, 28



What does 24:15 do to the Calvinist and his doctrine of Unconditional Election?

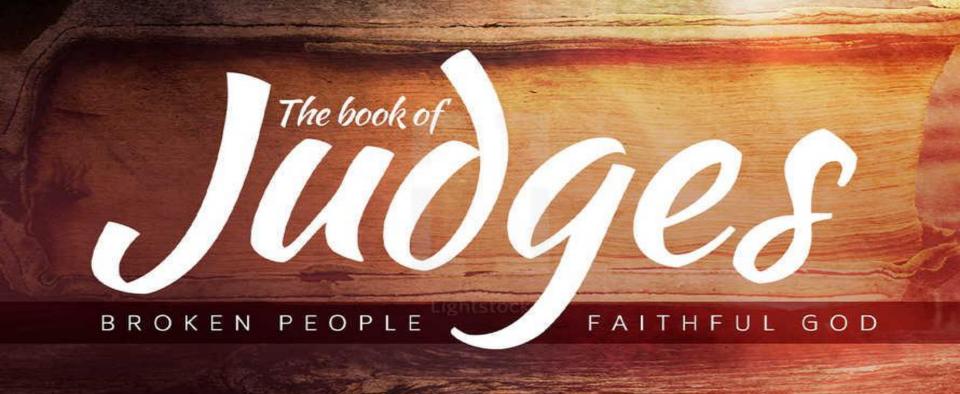
One of the tenets of Calvinism is that man does not really have a free will. That is, God already knows whom He will choose to be saved and nothing a man does, good or evil, will change His mind about that person.

Hence, once a person is in a saved state, then they will always be in that state. If that is true, then Joshua's directive that the people "choose whom they will serve" makes absolutely no sense. There would be no need for them to choose: God had already done that.

- What lessons (if any) do you see for us today in 24:31?
- 1. A church is only a generation away from apostasy. God has no grandchildren!
- 2. Frequently, people are loyal to a man instead of God. Must be careful where our loyalty lies. Important to take a stand!
- 3. It is critical for parents to diligently teach their children and for the older men and women to teach the younger men and women. Key: What comes first?
- 4. Must always be on guard not to "drift."

#### TRUE/FALSE

- 11. T F Eleazar was buried in the town of his son. (24:33)
- 12. **T F** Joseph's bones were buried in land that Abraham had bought from Hamor for 100 pieces of silver. (24:32)
- 13. **T F** Joshua said that the large stone at Shechem had heard the words of the people. (24:27)
- 14. T F Joshua said that God had used hornets to drive the inhabitants out of the land. (24:12)
- 15. **T F** *Joshua said that the city of Jericho had been too terrified to fight the Israelites.* (24:11)



## Judges of Ancient Israel



# Life Lessons From The Book of Judges



Why am I being told this?

## Judges = Word cloud



#### Big Ideas in JUDGES

God punishes repeated disobedience

When his people repent, God sends someone to rescue them

> God does not require flawless or powerful leaders, but obedient leaders

Abandoning God's laws results in chaos

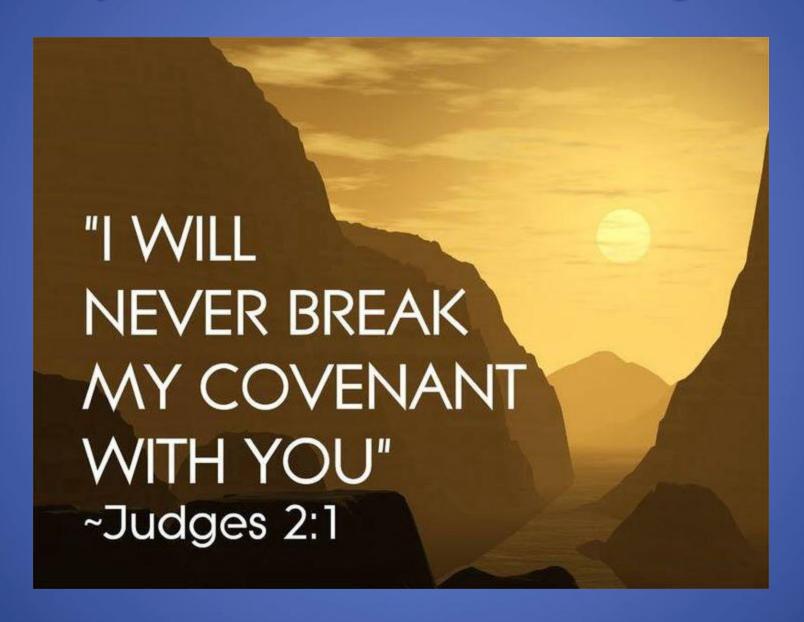
In love, God honors his covenant even when his people don't Why? Why?

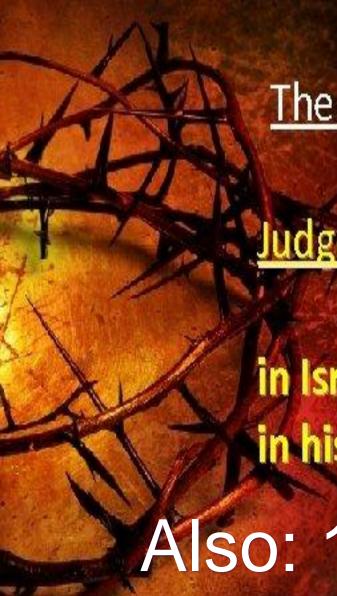
How flawed are these characters?

Righteous but crude!

Why is this important?
I Cor 1:26-31

### My favorite verse in Judges





The Key Theme of the Book of Judges:

Judges 21:25

in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Also: 17:6, 18:1, 19:1

Danger of moral relativity.

#### **Outline of the Book**

- The Deterioration of Israel (Judges 1-2)
  - Living with the Canaanites

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#### **Outline of the Book**

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- The Depravity of Israel (Judges 17-21)
  - Living <u>like</u> the Canaanites

Be ye holy?

# Key Ideas

The cycles of the Judges period
 Relapse→Ruin→Repentance→Restoration→Rest

# Key Ideas

- The cycles of the Judges period
   Relapse→Ruin→Repentance→Restoration→Rest
- God's justice and grace
- God's sovereign provision of saviors (judges, military leaders)
- Covenant failure by the people, the priests, and the tribal leadership

# Spirit of the Lord

- Plays prominent role in book of Judges
- Under Spirit's power that several judges accomplished their task

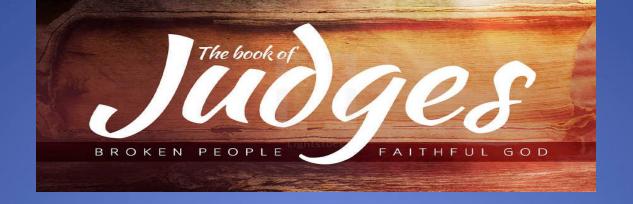
## "The Spirit of the Lord"

Othniel – Judges 3:10

Gideon – Judges 6:34

Jephthah - Judges 11:29

**Samson** — Judges 13:24-25, Judges 14:5-6;19, 15:14-15



Who was the author?

Unclear. Talmud: Samuel

When was it written?

During the time of the monarchy

Judges 21:25



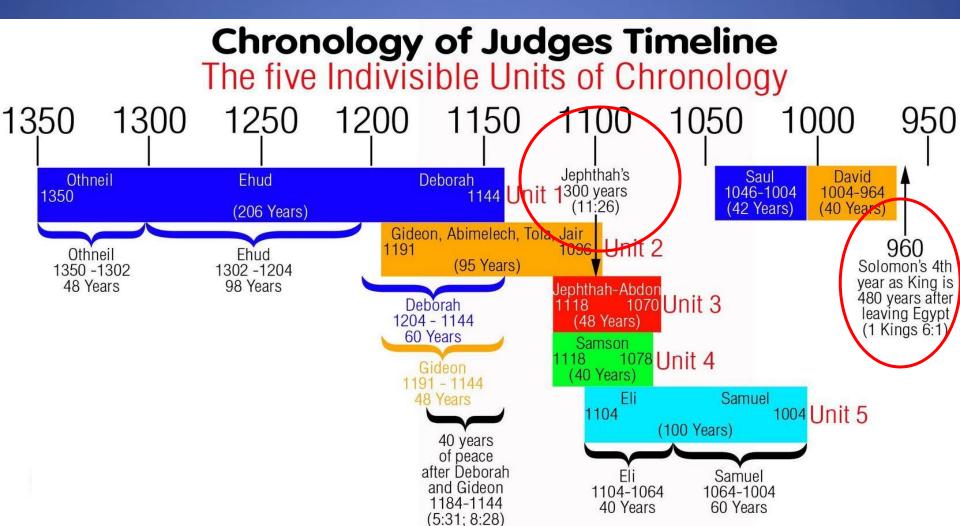
How long was this period?

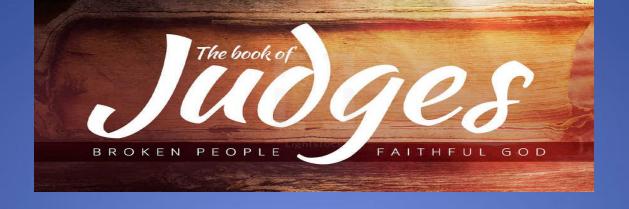
Unclear: About 350 years

Captivity – Conquest – Confederacy – Crown Captivity

#### Judges: Death of Joshua – King Saul

Acts 13:20 "Gave us judges until Samuel the prophet"





#### Who were the judges?

Name misleading. No gown & gavel! Regional short term military leaders

What would have been a better name?

vindicator, rescuer, saviors, deliverers

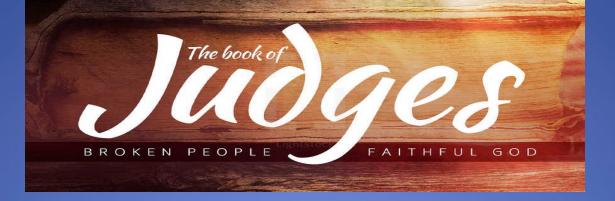


#### CHARACTERISTICS

- Temporary authority
- Non-dynastic

#### The Days of the Judges

Judge	Tribe	Enemy Defeated	Years of		
			Oppression	Rest	
Othniel	Judah	Mesopotamia	8 yrs	40 yrs	
Ehud	Benjamin	Moabites	18 yrs	80 yrs	
Shamgar	?	Philistines	?	?	
Deborah	Ephraim	Canaanites	20 yrs	40 yrs	
Gideon	Manasseh	Midianites	6 yrs	40 yrs	
Tola	Issachar	?		23 yrs	
Jair	Manasseh	?		22 yrs	
Jephthah	Manasseh	Ammonites	18 yrs	6 yrs	
Ibzan	Judah	?		7 yrs	
Elon	Zebulon	?		10 yrs	
Abdon	Ephraim	?		8 yrs	
Samson	Dan	Philistines	40 yrs	20 yrs	



#### CHARACTERISTICS

- Temporary authority
- Non-dynastic
- Limited authority
- Often overlapping

# Regional and Overlapping





#### CHARACTERISTICS

- Temporary authority
- Non-dynastic
- Limited authority
- Often overlapping
- Not possess the supreme authority of an office

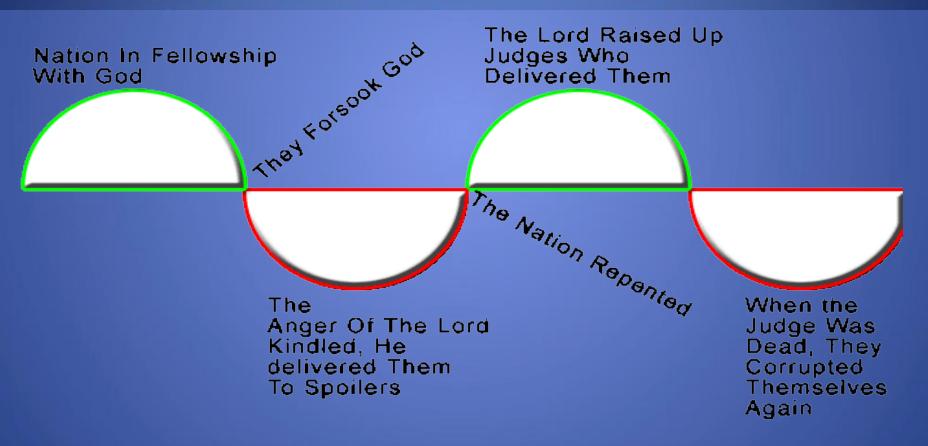


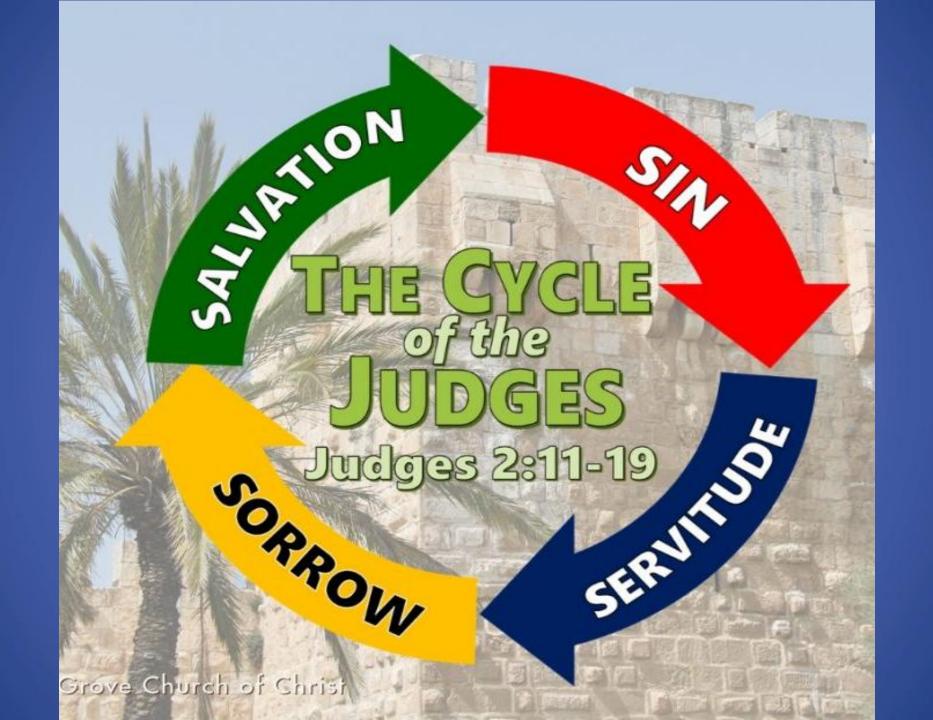
#### CHARACTERISTICS

CyclicalSee Judges 3:7-11

## History repeats itself

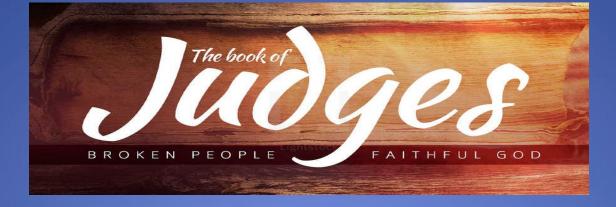
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#### SIX GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- 1. Unfaithfulness (Syncretism)
- 2. Moral degeneration
- 3. Cultural stagnation
- 4. Political fragmentation
- 5. Military vulnerability
- 6. Isolation of Judah to the south



#### CHARACTERISTICS

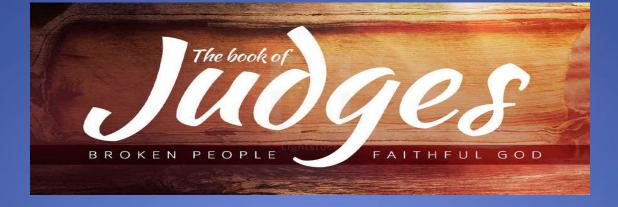
- Cyclical Judges 3:7-11
- System of Government Tribal Confederacy



# No federal Govt.

What held them together as a nation?

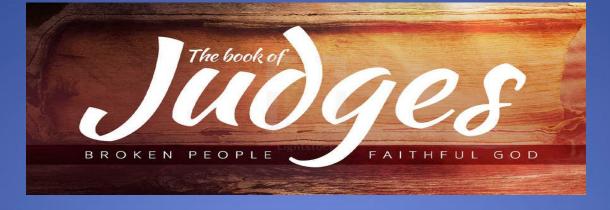
God alone was to be their king! Judges 8:22-23



Isa 1:26

"I will restore your judges as in the days of old, your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you will be called the City of Righteousness, the Faithful City." NIV

What is there about the period of the judges that will be fulfilled in the coming messianic age/church?



Tribal Independence Local Autonomy Only bond – family & covenant Bond: Brethren, follow N.T. God alone was King Christ is our King!