

Judges

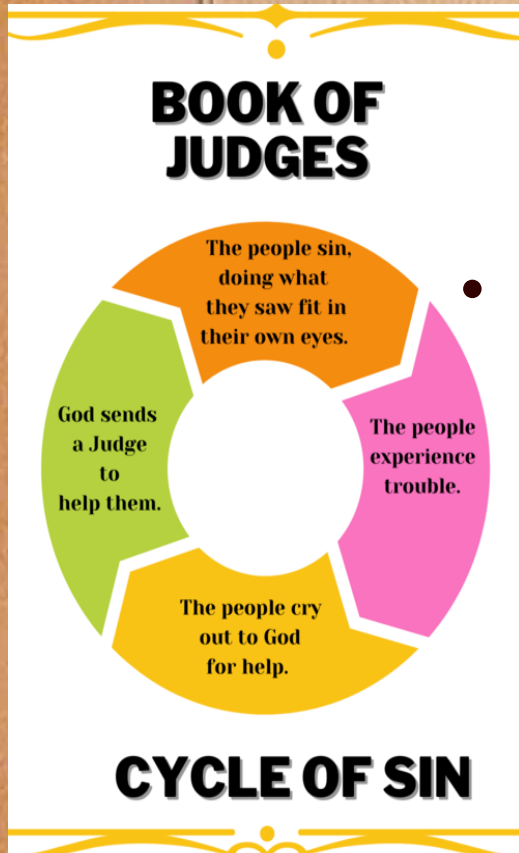
“Israel’s ‘Dark Ages’”

Why are we being told this?

Drawing Lessons from the Judges

Text: The Whole Book

What does the cycle of the Judges teach us?



- God graciously forgives and helps us to begin again.
- God forgives when we repent
- Evil companions corrupt good morals
- God chastens us when we disobey
- We tend to forget history and not learn the lessons.
- A huge pitfall is to not pass on values generationally.
- Trials and tests of faith are to be expected.

God Rules and Intervenes as needed in History

It is **His story!** There is a plan to history because God is in control (Judges 14:1-4)!

- God uses Gentiles as well as Israelites (Acts 17:26, Joshua 23:12-13).
- God oversees nature & geography. See Song of Deborah (5:4b-5, 20-21)

How is the promise land an object lesson of the importance of giving?

THE TRIBAL ALLOTMENTS OF ISRAEL

JOSH. 13:8-19:49

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak



God Rules and Intervenes as needed in History

In is **His story!** There is a plan to history because God is in control (Judges 14:1-4)!

Even during dark times, God is still on the throne, accomplishing His purposes!

God works things out for good in ways we could have never imagined (Rom 8:28).

We are encouraged to serve no matter how grim things get in this wicked world.

God uses human govts to accomplish His will.

God est. human govts (Rom 13).

There is no guarantee people will be faithful.

God is sovereign and God will accomplish His purposes regardless of the government.

Prov. 14:34

God's word stands despite unfaithfulness

The good judges = did acts of faith
(Heb 11).

The people's disobedience did not
cancel God's promises or His
covenant.

We must learn to live and trust in His
promises, not human explanations.

IF OUR GOD WHOM WE SERVE IS
ABLE TO DELIVER US FROM THE
FURNACE OF BLAZING FIRE AND
OUT OF YOUR HAND, O KING,
LET HIM DELIVER US. BUT IF NOT,
BE IT KNOWN TO YOU, O KING,
THAT WE WILL NOT SERVE YOUR
GODS AND WE WILL NOT
WORSHIP THE GOLDEN STATUE
THAT YOU HAVE SET UP.

DANIEL 3:17-18

God doesn't tell the whole story all at once.

Starlight, moonlight, sunlight!

God does not explain all the works of all of His servants, yet they are still important.

- Shamgar, Tola, and Jair . . . we know little.
- The book of Acts deals with 2/10 apostles.
- Don't be discouraged, not everyone is called to be a Deborah, Gideon, or Paul.

**When God's people are
unspiritual, the nation decays.**

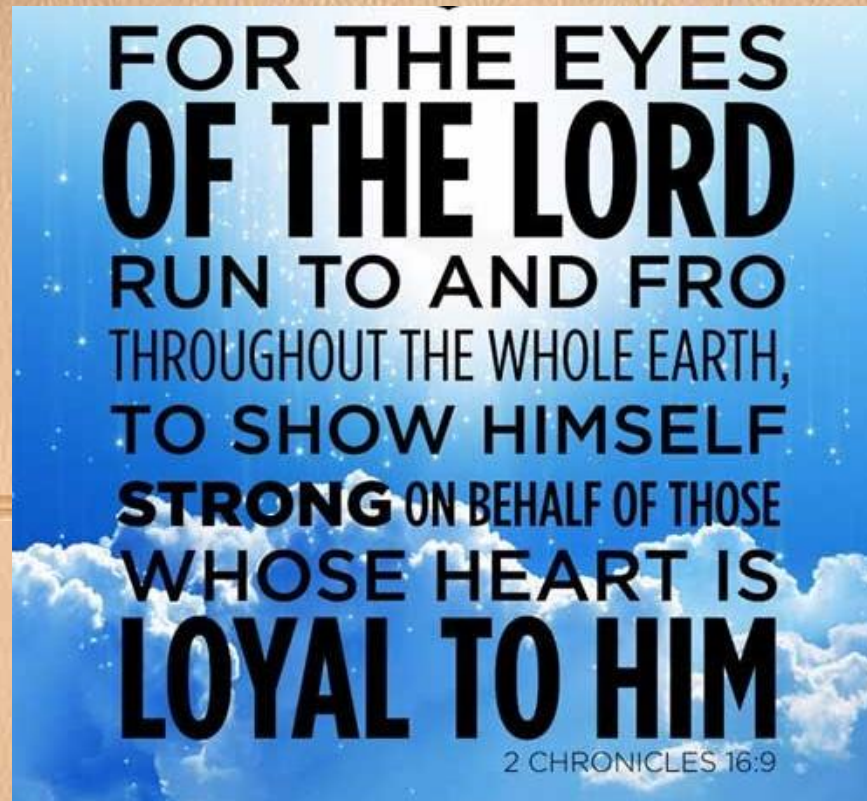
Apostacy and anarchy go together.

*“The church is most effective when it
is the least like the world.”*

As salt and light, we can preserve the nation.

Compromising Christians not only hurt
themselves, and the church, but the nation.

• **God is looking for servants in every age!**



- We must make ourselves available ex Gideon & Deborah.

God Gives Nations the Leaders They Deserve

Do men make the times, or do the
times make the men?

- As Israel declined so did the judges.
- Abimelech “the bramble king”
- Samson
- Gideon, Jephthah, etc. did acts of faith but provided no enduring leadership.

So he shepherded them
according to the integrity
of his heart, and He guided them with
His skillful hands



Psalm 78:72

• God is looking for servants in every age!

- We must make ourselves available!
 - What does the involve?
- Must have Faith and be willing to receive
His Word!
- Allow God to lead and do His will!

Gideon was weak in himself, but
strong in the Lord.

Barak would not fight the enemy alone
(without Deborah).

God still blesses those who live by faith

Faith is not believing in spite of evidence (this is superstition) but obeying in spite of the consequences.

We must stand with God even when we feel alone, or afraid.

God honors even weak faith and seeks to make it stronger. (Similar to strengthening a muscle).

God story isn't finished yet

Judges is depressing, but it isn't the end of the story!

Six OT books begin with: "Now it came to pass." Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Esther, Ezekiel. Why?

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Judges is the book of "no king" – 2 Samuel = God's King. (David).

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God's story isn't finished yet

What is the last installment of God's work?

The victory of the saints in the book of Revelation!

