

Chronological Bible Study

Week 10:

Sin and Salvation

Judges 1-21

Opening Prayer

[Video Link](#)





Introductions

Growing up what musical instruments did you play? What about now?

Questions?

Comments?

Summary of This Week's Readings

Compromise Brings Failure

- Defeat
- Disobedience Cycle
- Disgrace

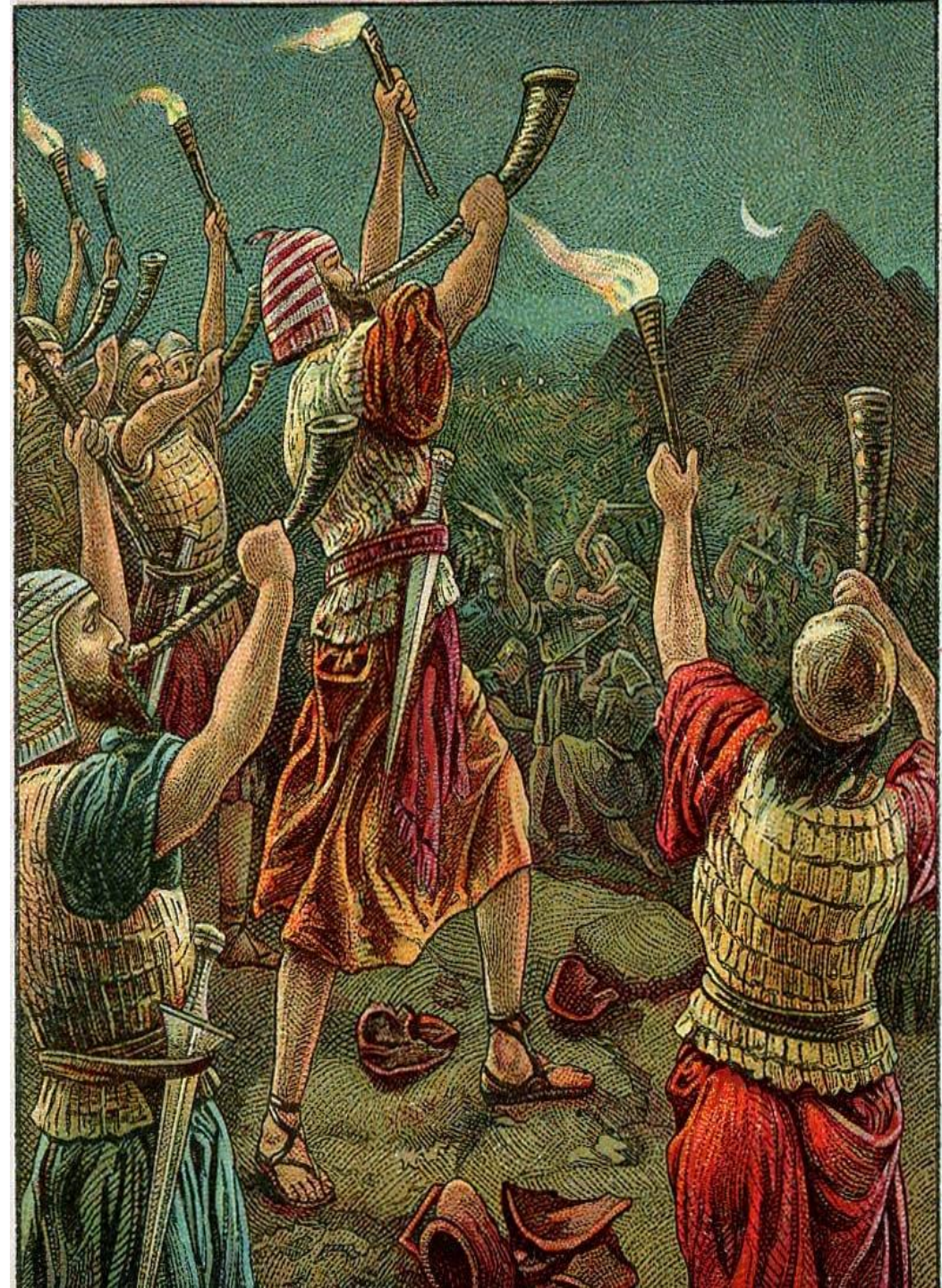
Book of Judges

[Video Link](#)



The Story Continues

- Judges continues God's story of salvation.
- Joshua ended with the question: Will the people of God be faithful and obedient to God? Judges demonstrates the answer is no.
- But, God does not abandon his people.
- Worship of God alone and obedience to God's will – justice – is needed
- The story will continue.



Israelite Neighbors

- Canaanites, Midianites, Ammonites, Moabites, Philistines
- There were weakened Superpowers – Egypt and Mesopotamia not particularly strong
- These enemies represent an oppressive way of life that God opposes. Submission to God requires that the People of God oppose what their culture represents.
- The Midianites were nomadic people from the desert regions of Syria and Western Arabia.



Finishing the Job

- Joshua ends with an obedient people ready to trust the power of God and finish the job of defeating the Canaanites.
- The book of judges covers the period from the death of Joshua and the rise of the monarchy.
- The Hebrew title of the book, *Shophetim*, means judges, which means justice and settling disputes. It can also mean liberate and deliver.
- The book is a dialogue about a relationship between God and Israel.

Cities and nations left in Canaan and the tribes responsible for defeating them



ASHER

Akko, Sidon, Ahlab, Akzib, Helbah, Aphek, Rehob



MANASSEH

Beth Shan, Taanach, Dor, Ibleam, Megiddo

DAN

Mount Heres, Aijalon, Shaalbim



ZEBULUN

Kitron, Nahalol



NAPHTALI

Beth Shemesh, Beth Anath



EPHRAIM

Gezer

These nations covered broader areas and were also left behind: Philistines, Canaanites, Sidonians, Hivites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites



TOTAL: 20 Cities, 8 Nations

Judges as a Tragedy

- Book of Judges is tragic literature
- The stories describe choices of moral compromise; the stories are not stories of moral heroes
- The stories help us evaluate our own life, habits, and values
- The stories in Judges should arouse a holy impatience with human selfishness and sin.



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

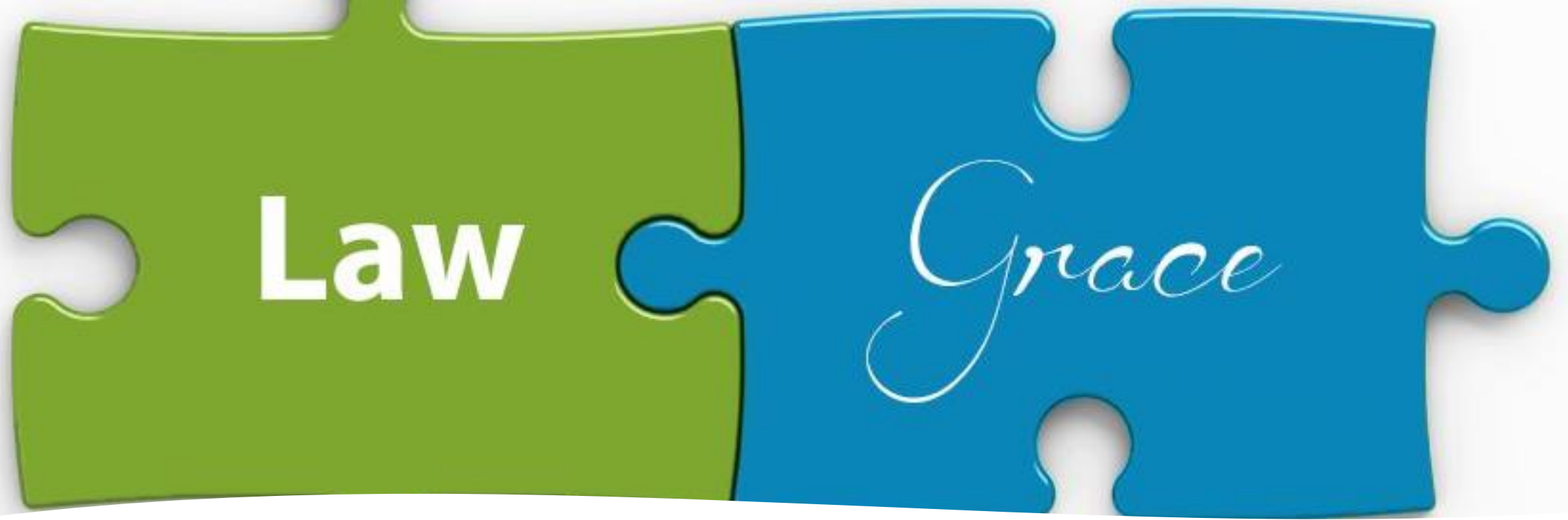
Abandoning
God's laws
results in chaos

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

Key Themes of Judges

- A key theme is deterioration as the people lack faith and are disobedient to God.
- God punishes disobedience.
- God uses tough times to get our attention
- To honor His covenant, God repeatedly delivers his wayward people when they repent.
- Success is determined by God's power, not ours
- God uses flawed people

*In those days there was no king in Israel:
everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*



Grace and Law

- God's relationship with Israel is explored in Judges
- Will God's holiness and his demand for obedience override his promises?
OR will his commitment to Israel, his gracious promises to the patriarchs mean he will overlook their sin?
- We are left with a paradox

God's Rule Over His People

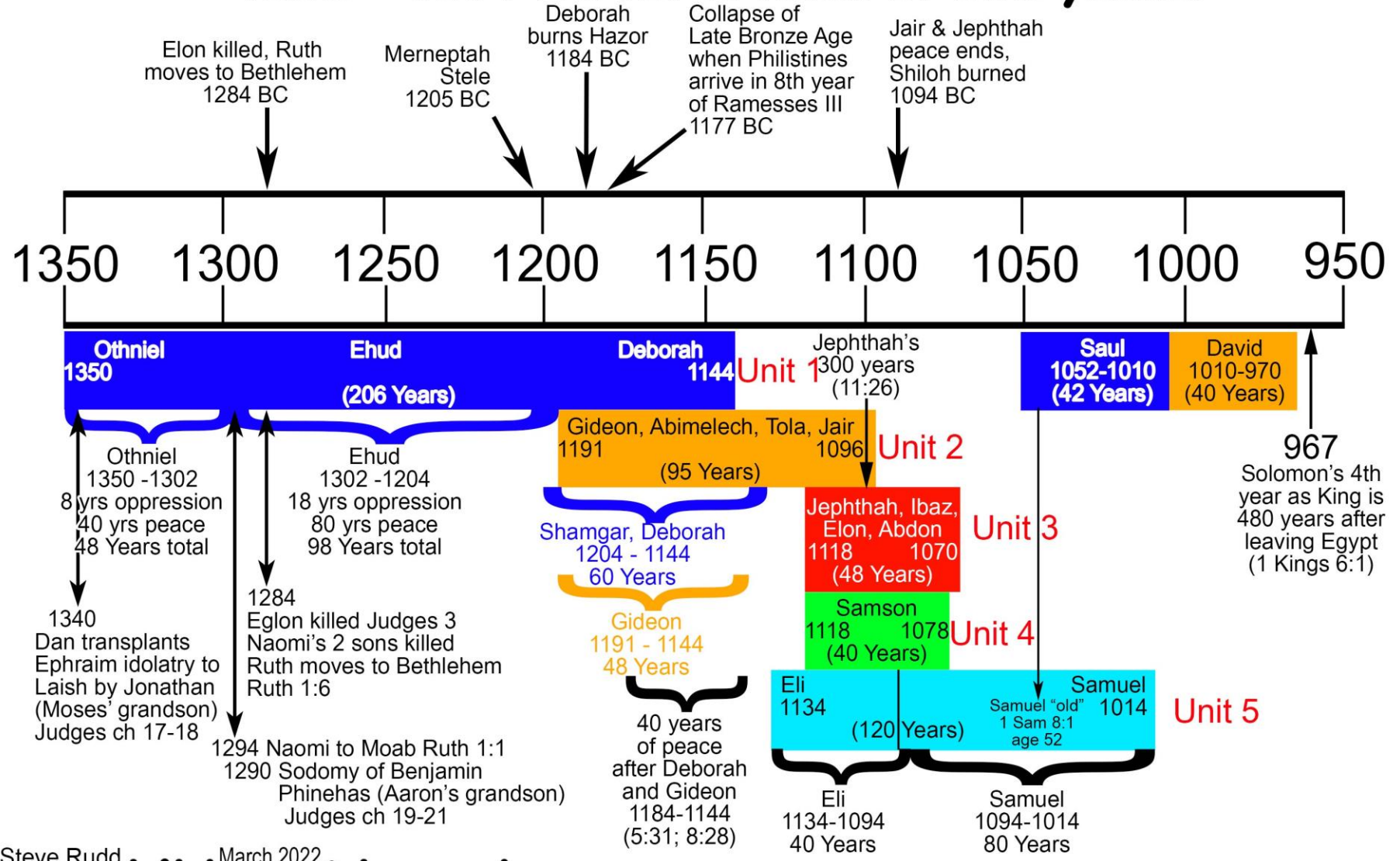
- God was to be Israel's king and Lord
- Decentralized rule was not producing a holy nation
- Would a monarchy achieve goals of driving out the Canaanites and keep the purity of national allegiance to Yahweh?
- Judges is a progression of the story that will lead to a period of kings
- Jesus will be the ultimate king when he returns.



Chronology of Judges Timeline

THE FIVE INDIVISIBLE UNITS OF CHRONOLOGY

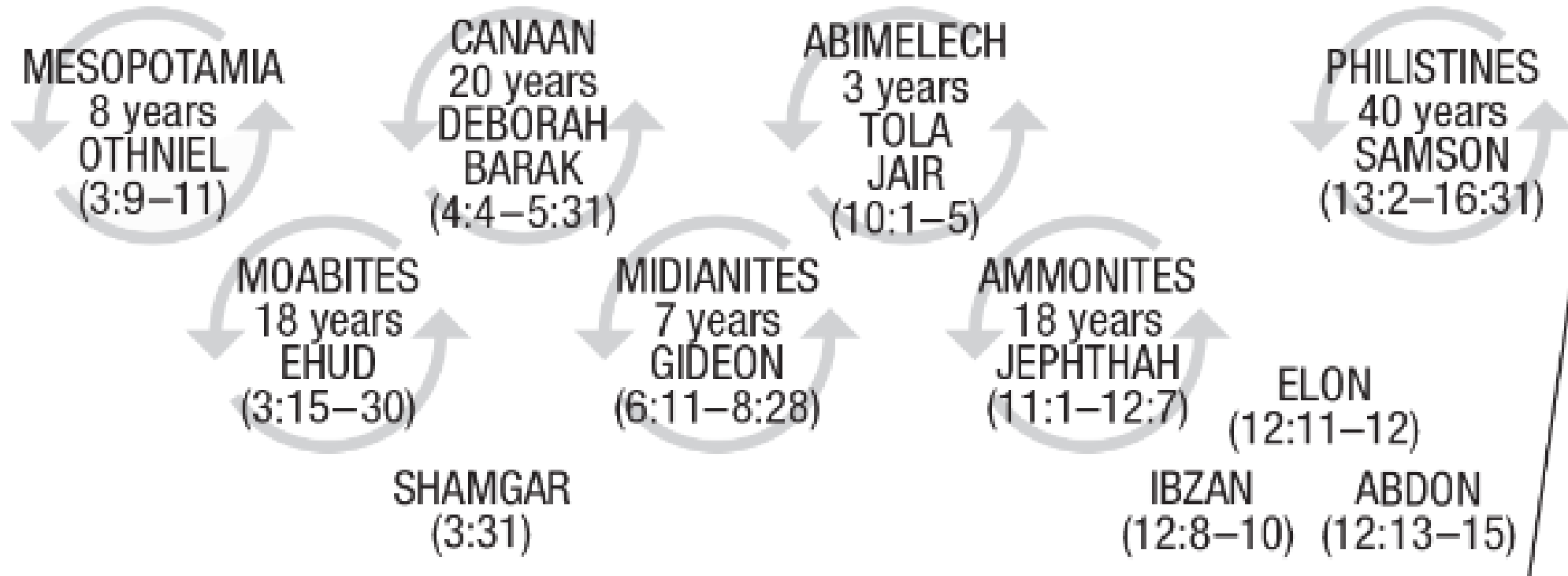
1350 - 1014 BC for a total of 336 years.



CYCLES OF JUDGES



Course of Failure



DISCUSSION

Are we still caught in the cycle described in Judges today? What are the differences?



What Is Sin?

[Video Link](#)



DISCUSSION

Under what circumstances are you most prone to drift away from God?

- When you are too comfortable
- When you get too busy
- When you get tired of “being good”
- When you ignore quiet time
- When life’s pressures get too great?
- When bad things happen in your life?
- Other?



Judge and Tribe	Scripture Ref	Major Events	Oppressors	Years oppressed	Years Rest
Othniel (Judah) Son of Kenaz, the younger brother of Caleb	Judges 1:11-15; 3:1-11; Joshua 15:16-19 1 Chr 4:13	Nephew of Caleb and son-in-law after the capture of Kirjath Septher Defeated Cushan-Rishathiam, king of Mesopotamia	Cushan- Rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia	8	40
Ehud (Benjamin) Son of Gera	Judges 3:12-41	The left-handed Benjamite personally slew Eglon, the fat king of Moab Led slaying of 10,000 Moabites	Eglon king of Moab Ammonites Amalekites	18	80
Shamgar (perhaps foreign) Son of Anath	Judges 3:31; 5:6	Shamgar slew 600 Philistines with an oxgoad	Philistines	Not given	Not given
Deborah (Ephraim) Barak (Naphtali) Son of Abinoam	Judges 4:1-5:31 Hebrews 11:32	Deborah, a prophetess and judge was the wife of Lapidoth Deborah and Barak defeated Sisera at the battle of Kishon. Sisera killed by Jael, wife of Heber.	Jabin, king of Canaan. Sisera was commander of the Army.	20	40

Judge and Tribe	Scripture Ref	Major Events	Oppressors	Years oppressed	Years Rest
Gideon (Manasseh) Son of Joash Called Jerbbaal and Jerubbesheth	Judges 6:1-8:32 Hebrews 11:32	Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon Defeated many enemies Made a gold ephod that led people into idolatry	Midianites Amalekites People of the East	7	40
Abimelech (Manasseh) Son of Gideon	Judges 8:33-9:57	Slew all his half brothers (70) except the youngest Defeated Gaal Captured Shechem	Civil War		3
Tola (Issachar) Son of Puah	Judges 10:1-2	Tola was likely from one of the leading families of Issachar			23
Jair (Gilead-Manasseh)	Judges 10:3-5	Probably descendant of Jair from the days of Moses and Joshua Had 30 sons who were itinerant judges			22

Judge and Tribe	Scripture Ref	Major Events	Oppressors	Years oppressed	Years Rest
Jephthah (Gilead- Manasseh) Son of Gilead	Judges 10:6-12:7 Hebrews 11:32	Fled to Tob when driven off by his half brothers. Elders brough him back and made him their chief Mizpah. Subdued Ammonites Devoted his dauter to service of Lord Defeated Ephraimites	Philistines Ammonites Ephraimites (civil war)	18	6
Ibzan (Judah or Zebulun)	Judges 12:8-10	Had 30 sons and 30 daughters – a man of wealth and prominence Jewish tradition identifies him with Boaz			7
Elon (Zebulun)	Judges 12:11-12	Buried at the Aijalon in Zebulun			10
Abdon (Ephraim) Son of Hillel	Judges 12:13-15	Had 40 sons and 30 grandsons Native of Pirathon			8
Samson	Judges 13:1- 16:31 Hebrews 11:32	Birth announced by angel of the Lord, Nazirite from birth Warrior conquered by Delilah, imprisoned at Gaza	Philistines	40	20

Angel of the Lord

[Video Link](#)





Deborah

- The only female judge
- The only judge to be considered a prophet
- The Song of Deborah describes the final battle defeating the Canaanites with her general Barack
- “Mother in Israel”
- One of several powerful women leaders in the Bible

Gideon

- Judge who defeated the Midianite army
- God, through the Angel of the Lord, chose Gideon to free the people of Israel from the Midianites and condemn their idolatry
- Gideon believed because of the problems of the world that God had abandoned them and required miracles to answer his call
- Also called Jerubbaal



Samson



- Last of the major judges
- Deeply flawed
- Was set apart to God from birth but failed to fulfill his potential
- Samson is a metaphor for Israel itself

Everyone Did What Was Right in Their Own Eyes

- Social climate of the time of the Judges
- The individual need, preference, desire, hope and purpose became the governing standard of the day.
- God warned the people about falling into this philosophy in DT 12:8 100 years before because it leads to chaos
- The Israelites need a king who can rescue them from themselves



DISCUSSION

The book ends with the statement “Everyone did as they saw fit.” How does that relate to our world today.



Dark Notes of the Bible

[Video Link](#)



Closing Hymn

[Video Link](#)



In Judges, a disobedient and idolatrous people are repeatedly oppressed by their enemies. Through a repeated cycle of disobedience, oppression, repentance and deliverance, Judges portrays a God of both judgment and forgiveness. God’s love, as well as judgement, is evident. Judges illustrates that compromise with the secular world results in disaster. Israel suffers political and social misery for repeatedly ignoring God. The failures of Israel’s leaders (parents, priests and judges) points out the importance of, and need for, godly leadership. This is a dark era in Israel’s history. We see the need for a godly king -- a Messiah.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: JDG 1:1 – 3:6
 Day 2: JDG 3:7 – 5:31
 Day 3: JDG 6:1 – 8:35
 Day 4: JDG 9:1 – 10:18
 Day 5: JDG 11:1 – 12:15
 Day 6: JDG 13:1 – 16:31
 Day 7: JDG 17:1 – 21:25

Outline

Incomplete Conquest [Day 1]
 Oppression and deliverance [Days 2-6]
 Religious and moral disorder (Day 7)

Key Characters

Othniel	Ehud
Shamgar	Sisera
Deborah	Gideon
Barak	Jair
Tola	Ibzan
Jephthah	Abdom
Elon	Deliliah
Samson	

Key Locations

Canaan	Sorek
Bokim	Gaza
Jericho	Ephraim
Hazor	Dan
Hill of Moreh	
Shechem	
Ammon	
Gibeah	
Mizpah	

Key Terms

Deterioration
 Idols
 Leader
 Deliverance
 Salvation
 Apostasy
 Oppression
 Repentance
 Restoration

Key Verses

“The anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and He gave them into the hands of plunderers who plundered them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies around them, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. Wherever they went, the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, as the Lord had spoken and as the Lord had sworn to them, so that they were severely distressed. Then the Lord raised up judges who delivered them from the hands of those who plundered them.”
 [JDG 2:14-16]

“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.” [JDG 21:25]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jdg1: Judah defeated the Canaanites and took Jerusalem. Joseph put Bethel to the sword. But the Canaanites were not driven out completely.

Jdg2: After Joshua's generation died the Israelites served Baals. The LORD sold them to their enemies but raised up judges to deliver them.

Jdg3: After Othniel died the Israelites did evil. King Eglon defeated them. The LORD raised up Ehud who thrust a sword into Eglon's belly.

Jdg4: Jabin and Sisera oppressed Israel. Deborah sent Barak against them and the LORD routed them. Jael drove a peg through Sisera's head.

Jdg5: Deborah and Barak sang: "When leaders lead and people are willing, praise the LORD! Blessed is Jael; Let your enemies perish, O LORD!"

Jdg6: The LORD gave the Israelites to Midian. The angel of the LORD told Gideon to save Israel and gave him a sign. Gideon gathered an army.

Jdg7: The LORD told Gideon to send away all but 300 men. The 300 crept into the Midianite camp. They blew trumpets and the Midianites fled.

Jdg8: Gideon defeated Zebah and Zalmunna and punished Succoth and Penuel. He refused to rule Israel. When Gideon died Israel served Baals.

Jdg9: Abimelech killed his brothers and ruled over Israel. Gaal rose against him. Abimelech destroyed Shechem but was killed by a millstone.

Jdg10: Again the Israelites did evil. The LORD sold them to the Philistines and the Ammonites. They cried out and put aside foreign gods.

Jdg11: Jephthah vowed to sacrifice whatever came out to meet him if he defeated the Ammonites. His daughter met him so he sacrificed her.

Jdg12: The Ephraimites attacked Jephthah. Jephthah and the Gileadites defeated them and caught survivors by making them say 'Shibboleth'.

Jdg13: The LORD gave Israel to the Philistines. The angel of the LORD told Manoah's wife that she would conceive. She named her son Samson.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jdg14: Samson took a Philistine wife. He killed a lion and bees made honey in the carcass. He posed a riddle but his wife explained it.

Jdg15: Samson's wife married another man so Samson burned the Philistine crops. The Israelites bound him. He killed a thousand Philistines.

Jdg16: Samson loved Delilah. She had his hair shaved so he lost his strength and was captured. He died pulling down the Philistine temple.

Jdg17: Micah set up a shrine. There was no king so everyone did what was right in their own eyes. Micah appointed a Levite as his priest.

Jdg18: Spies from Dan stayed with Micah. When the Danites went against Laish they took Micah's idol and his priest. They named the city Dan.

Jdg19: A Levite came to Gibeah. The men of the city raped his concubine until she died. He cut up her body and sent a piece to each tribe.

Jdg20: The Israelites gathered to attack Gibeah. The Benjaminites defended the city but they were defeated and only 600 of them survived.

Jdg21: The Israelites grieved that a tribe would be cut off. They destroyed Jabesh-gilead and captured wives for the remaining Benjaminites.

Teachings About God

- God is shown as an agent of discipline and rescue because He is the ultimate judge.
- When God’s people sin, He punishes them.
- When God’s people repent, He forgives and restores.
- God graciously restores His people because of His covenant with them.
- God does not lightly ignore when people forsake Him.
- God is merciful and moved with pity when His children cry out to Him, even when their troubles are caused by their sin.

Teachings About Humanity

- The name Judges refers to the style of government from Joshua’s death to Saul’s kingship. The judges did not preside over courts but were leaders or chieftains.
- There is only fleeting time in this story where Israel fulfilled its role as God’s people.
- Judges balances the positive picture of inevitable conquest shown in the book of Joshua.
- People are rebellious and ready to forsake God. These were depraved times.
- Humans are fickle. They easily turn to idols despite their covenant with God.
- Even heroic judges (Gideon, Jephthah, and Sampson) were seriously flawed.
- Man should not be careless in their relationship with God.
- This is a story of national failure.

Teachings About Salvation

- The key term in Judges is “Save” because the book tells the repeated cycle of how the Israelites fell into apostasy, so God handed them over to their political enemies, then after they cried out to God, God raised up a leader who saved them from oppression.
- Salvation involves more than just forgiveness from sin. Sin has social consequences.
- Salvation and deliverance is always from God and never because someone or some group deserves it.

Reflections of Christ/Holy Spirit

- The Spirit’s power in enabling certain judges to perform mighty works is shown throughout the book.
- The judges were God’s agents for delivering His people from a variety of enemies. Christ confronts and defeats Satan and his forces, delivering God’s people from their enemies.

Literary Genres/Techniques

- Historical narrative
- Ch. 3-16 include repetitive language describing the cycles of oppression and deliverance.
- Long prologue and epilogue
- Poetry (Deborah’s song)
- Key themes: apostasy, oppression, repentance, and restoration. This cycle is its key literary feature.
- There were 12 judges (6 major and 6 minor), matching the 12 tribes. One of the judges was female (Deborah).

Author/Date of Writing

- The events of Judges occur c1380-1060 BC); from Joshua’s death until Samson’s death.
- The author is unknown. Seems to have been written during a time when there was a king. Jewish tradition attributes the book to Samuel.
- Audience was the Israelite nation after they settled in Canaan, after Saul became king..

What did I learn about God?

- What does Judges 2:10-19 reveal about the justice and mercy of God?
- Why did God want to reduce the size of Gideon's army? Why send the others home? What was God trying to teach Gideon?
- Why does God "sell" Israel to their enemy? What does polytheism say about human spirituality and gullibility? About God's jealousy? What did Israel do to change God's mind?
- Why did God give Manoah and his wife a special child (Samson)?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Why does Israel make the same mistake over and over again? Does that ever happen today?
- When Gideon died, his people soon forgot God. What causes people to forget about God today? What can be done to help people remember?
- What relationship is there, if any, between the pervasive violence in Judges and the anarchy in which Israel lived? Is this a governmental problem? A social problem? A religious problem? Is the moral relativism we see today similar in any way to everyone doing what is right in his own eyes?
- What do you see as the most tragic thing about Samson's life?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Has the Lord ever tested you like He did the Israelites? How are you stronger today as a result of the testing experience.
- Gideon asked for signs from God. What signs of God's working in your life have you seen?
- What, for you, is the hardest thing about doing God's will? Figuring out what it is? Choosing from the options God gives you? Taking risks? Explaining your actions to others? Others?
- Samson was set apart for God. How can you separate yourself from the world and set yourself apart for God? When do you feel weakest against temptation?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- The Israelites refused to listen to God until He was their last option. Spiritual, as well as moral anarchy, had taken over the nation. "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes." When they humbly petitioned God to take control He did! God is ready to extend His grace to those who are willing to faithfully trust in Him. What would have happened if they had trusted Him all along?
- The Period of Judges reminds us that we all need accountability. Allowing distance, apathy or separation to occur in our relationship with God is detrimental. What helps you keep accountable to following God?