

Sin and Salvation

28 NOV – 4 DEC 2017

JDG 1 - 21

Week 11 - 39 Weeks to Go

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	Deborah
Barak	Gideon
Tola	Jair
Jephthah	Ibzan
Elon	Abdon
Samson	Deliliah

Key Locations

Canaan

Key Terms

Deterioration
Idols
Leader
Deliverance

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]

EPOCH 4
(1200 – 930 BC)

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.

Finishing the Job

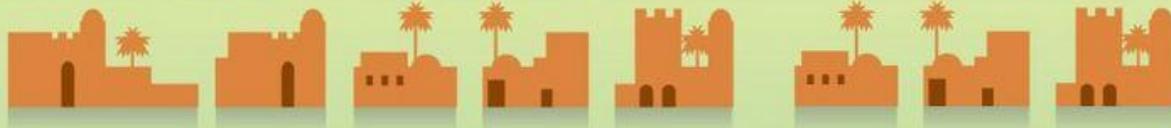
Judges 1:27-35; 3:3-5

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



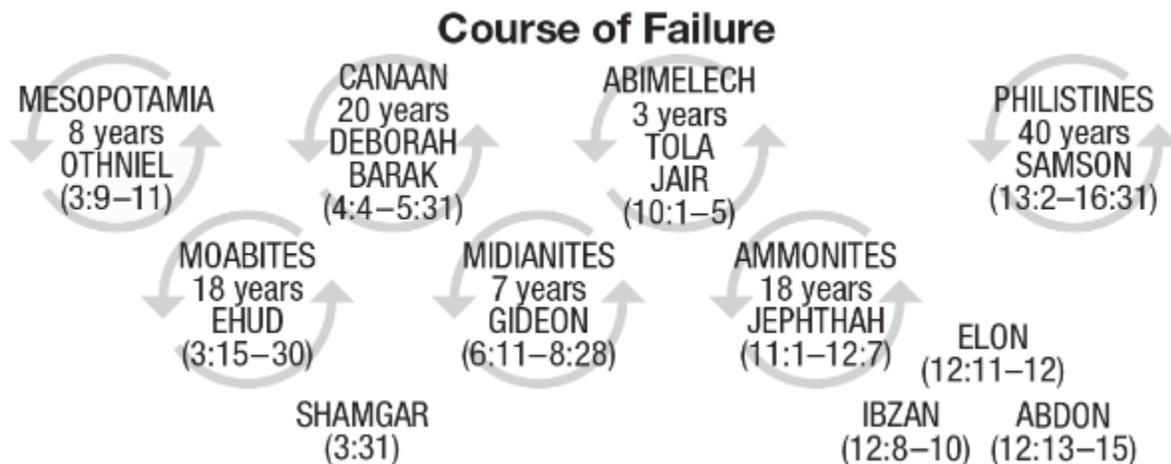
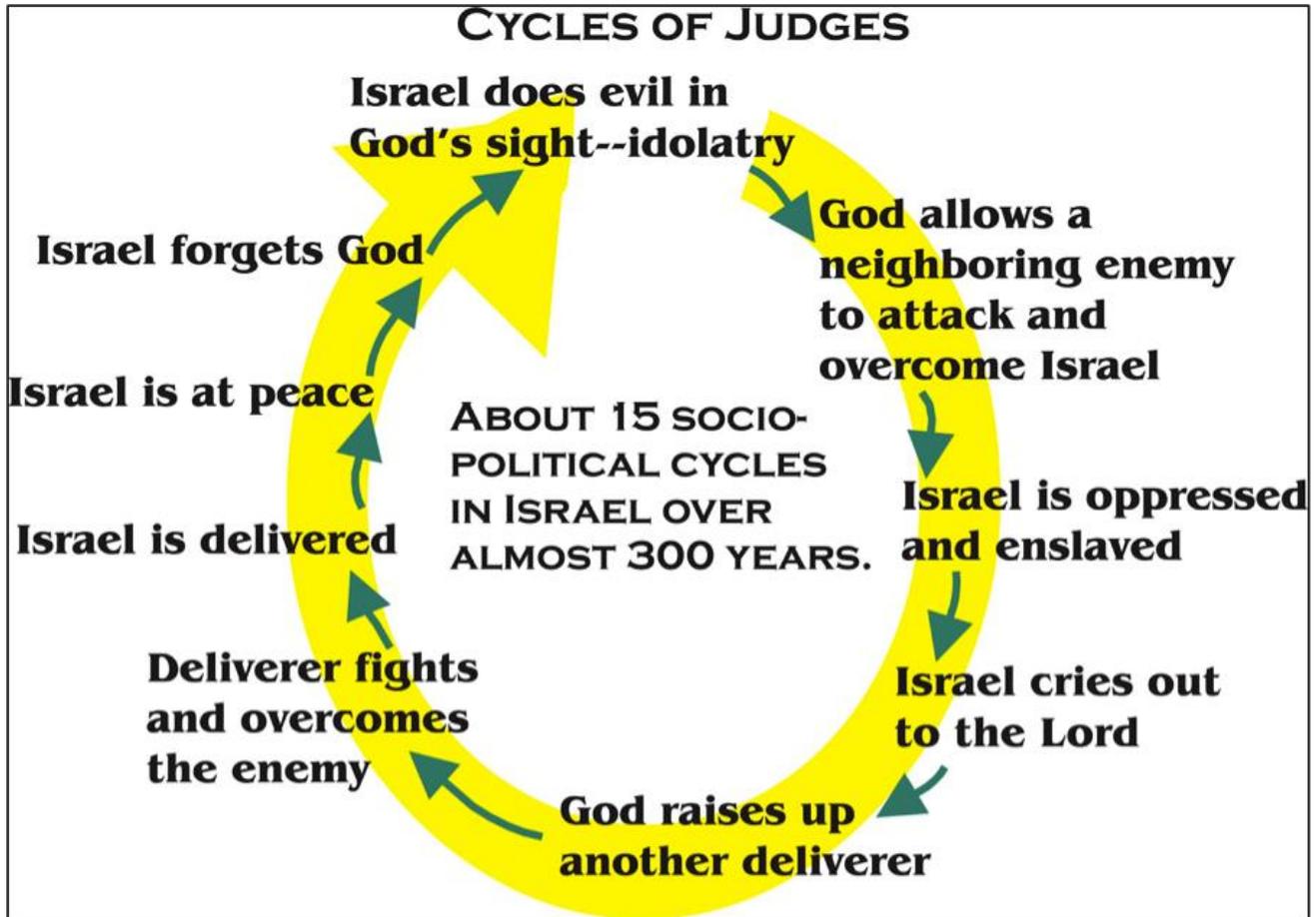
EPHRAIM

Gezer

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



TOTAL: 20 Cities, 8 Nations



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

The 7 Cycles of Idol Worship, Oppression and Deliverance

[The Book of Judges]

After Joshua died, many of the Israelites forgot their own God, worshipped idols made of wood and stone and behaved immorally.

When enemy nations attacked them they were helpless without God and were easily conquered. Eventually they remembered God and cried out to Him for help. God then raised up a courageous Israelite to lead them to freedom (a judge).

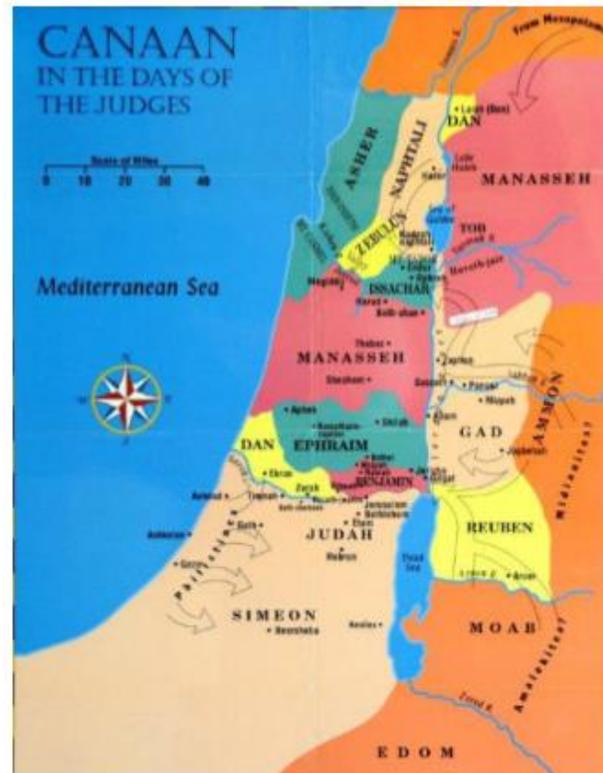
As long as the judge lived and ruled, the Israelites worshipped God. But when he or she died, they worshipped idols again.

In the 300 years after Joshua died, 8 oppressor nations ruled over the Israelites and after each "oppression" God raised up a "deliverer" to set the Israelites free. There were 13 judges in all; 7 deliverer judges and 6 judges that ruled during periods of calm.

The period of the Judges is characterized as a time in Bible history when everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

The 13th and last Judge of Israel was Samuel. Samuel was also a prophet of God to whom God spoke directly and a priest who let the Israelites in the worship of God at the Tabernacle in the city of Shiloh.

The period of Judges ended when the people clamored for an earthly king to protect them from the Philistines and God told Samuel to anoint Saul as Israel's first king.



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
Ibsan	Judah	?		7 yrs
Elon	Zebulun	?		10 yrs
Abdon	Ephraim	?		8 yrs
Samson	Dan	Philistines	40 yrs	20 yrs

Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

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?