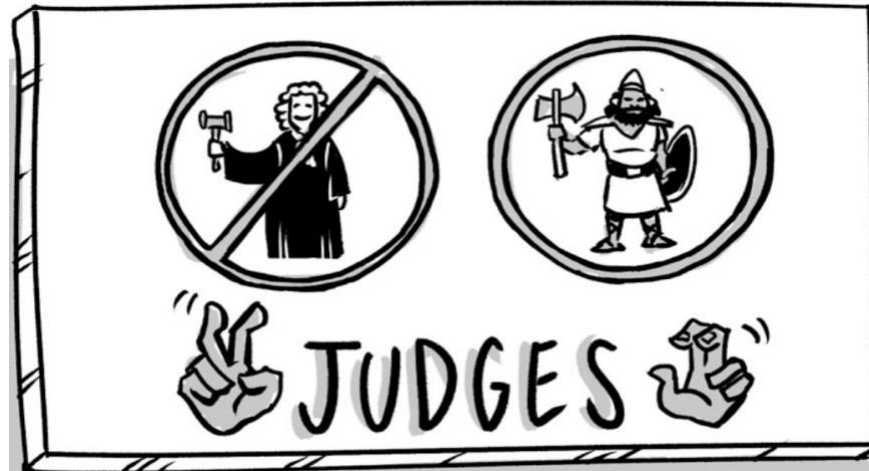


JUDGES

Judges in Hebrew means _____ or saviors. These were not Judges in the traditional sense of American culture. The Judges would be leaders who were raised up to “deliver” the nation from it’s adversaries. Judges is a tragic sequel to the book of _____. The fact that Israel would need to be delivered is a hint to us that something went wrong after the death of Joshua.



Author – Generally believed to be Samuel

Date – Prior to 1043 B.C.

Act 13:20 And after that he gave *unto them* judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

According to Stephens message, the period of the Judges was about _____ yrs. That timeframe would encompass the ministries of Eli & Samuel, the latter was considered the last of the Judges and the beginning of a line of prophets that would minister to the nation.

The book opens with the _____ of Joshua:

Jdg 1:1 Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?

Oddly enough the book is characterized, not by a statement that opens the book, but rather by one that _____ the book:

Jdg 21:25 In those days *there was* no king in Israel: **every man did that which was right in his own eyes.**

This statement would explain the contents of the book of Judges (Repeated 2xs in the book).

In Judges, you will find some very disturbing passages. More evidence of the degradation that takes place when people live _____ of God.

General Outline

Ch 1-2 – Background and Setting of the Scene

Ch 3-16 – Cycle of _____ to Deliverance with the Judges

Ch 17-21 – 2 specific _____ of Godlessness.

CHAPTER 1-2

Ch. 1 – A list of all the cities in the land of Canaan that the children of Israel _____ to conquer. These failures would be part of their undoing, at times rising up to defeat Gods people.

Q: What can we learn?

A: The areas of our Christian life that we choose to walk in disobedience in, will eventually contribute to our downfall.

Ch 2 – Tells how the nation of Israel, once they moved into the land, basically just _____ the ways of the pagans around them. This was explicitly the opposite of what God has told them to do.

Q: What can we learn?

A: Separation is vitally important in the Christian life, to neglect it always brings eventual _____.

Ch. 2 introduces us to the _____ that Israel would follow thru this era of time.

A) They would _____ against God – Usually in following the pagan practices of the Canaanites

B) They would experience _____ – Being defeated by their enemies

C) They would offer _____ -

D) They would be _____ – God would deliver them thru the Judges

E) At _____ Again – They would have a season of peace, before they turned to sin again

CHAPTER 3-16

Chapter 3-16 Will cover the stories of the Judges of Israel. Now remember, these are judges from a period of time in which the people of God:

Jdg 2:10 And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which **knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.**

They were living in a land given to them by a God, under a system of worship to that God, that they did not have a personal _____ with. So for God, there was not a Moses or Joshua type of man to use to deliver his people. Hence you will find in the judges of the book, some really shady characters. Interestingly enough, you will find God often empowering them to deliver His people, only later to find that same Judge do things that _____ the very God that empowered him.

Othniel – Ch 3:1-11

Ehud – Ch 3:12-30

Shamgar – Ch 3:31

Deborah – Ch 4-5

Gideon – Ch 6-8

When we think about Gideon, we usually only consider his valiant military battle in which he defeats a large army with just _____men. However, as Paul Harvey would say, here's the rest of the story. Not knowing the God of his forefathers in a personal relationship shows up at the end of his life (Ch 8:22-28)

Abimelech – Ch 9

Tola – Ch 10:1-2

Jair – Ch 10:3-5

Jephthah – Ch 11-12:7

Ibzan – Ch 12:8-10

Elon – Ch 12:11-12

Abdon – Ch 12:13-15

Sampson – Ch 13-16

Sampson epitomizes the era of time in which he lived. He was a man who was lead by the _____ of his _____. He was stubborn and arrogant, rejecting the very counsel of his parents that eventually lead to his demise.

Interestingly enough, in spite of all the flaws of the judges, when the book of Hebrews is written, several of them are used as examples of _____:

Heb 11:32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of **Gedeon**, and of **Barak**, and of **Samson**, and of **Jephthae**; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

CHAPTER 17-21

Ch 17-21 The book of Judges ends with two stories that again highlight the _____ and _____ degradation of this era of time

Micah & The Levite (Ch 17-18)

This story is a picture of what takes places in the arena of _____, when it's done according to what's right in the eyes of man, apart from God!

Micah built him a little temple, put false gods in it and hired a Levite to be his _____. In his mind, having a Levite as priest would legitimize his faulty system of worship.

Jdg 17:12 And Micah consecrated the Levite; and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.

Jdg 17:13 Then said Micah, Now know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to *my* priest.

The tribe of Dan would eventually plunder Micah's temple, stealing his gods and his priest, making it their own.

An Unnamed Levite and His Concubine (Ch 19-21)

Keep in mind, that just because it's in the bible, doesn't mean that God _____ or orchestrated it. In this situation, the Levite done what was right in his own eyes, but it was so wrong!

The book ends with this statement: [Jdg 21:25](#) In those days *there was* no king in Israel: every man did *that which was* right in his own eyes.

This is where once again we see the beauty of Gods grace and mercy. The next book is the book of Ruth, which is actually unfolding during the same era of time as the book of Judges.

[Rth 1:1](#) Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled,

In Ruth we see God putting together a plan to give Israel a _____, one that would lead them to love and follow Him again.