

9/22/13

**Elements for Godless Living**  
**Sel Scriptures Judges**

The book of Judges is God's record of a nation and people who despite having everything going for them, they failed to obtain what God was theirs.

1. The book is a record of spiritual failures and defeats, in contrast to the book of Joshua, the record of spiritual victories and advancement.
2. The book is a picture of social, political and spiritual anarchy, total confusion and disorder, due to disobedience and compromise.
3. There is a repetitive cycle.
  - a. Apostasy.
  - b. Bondage.
  - c. Cry out for deliverance.
  - d. Deliverance.
  - e. Brief obedience.
  - f. Apostasy again.
4. The book of Judges stands in the period between Joshua and the reign of Saul, when the kingdom was going from a theocracy to a monarchy, Samuel being the last judge.
  - a. If you add up all the years of the period of judges, it comes out to 410 years, but this is too long, it does not fit.
  - b. Therefore some of the judges must be overlapped and it is believed the correct number is about 300 years.

- c. All we have to do is go to the book of First Kings where it tells us that Solomon began to build temple 4th year of his reign, 480 years from Exodus. 1Kings 6:1
  - a. There was 40 years in the wilderness.
  - b. Twenty-five years for Joshua in land.
  - c. Forty for Eli
  - d. Forty for Samuel and Saul
  - e. Forty of David
  - f. Four for Solomon.
  - g. The total is 189, subtracted from 480 the years Solomon built the temple after the exodus, equals 301 years.
  - h. The dates are 1375-1075 B. C.

The last time I taught the book of Judges was the first quarter of 1983.

1. It has been thirty years, many of you were kids or teen and some of you were not even born.
2. It was about ten years or so after the revival of the "Jesus people", people were on fire for the Lord's soon return, in the midst of the drug and sexual revolution.
3. I told the people that I want them to compare the events and situations of the book of Judges to those of the United States, to see if they could read the writing on the wall of God judgment on America, as Belshazzar saw the night he indulged in the drunken feast using the vessels of God. Dan. 5:25-28
4. Thirty years later we are still here and certainly have seen the incredible decay to our nation in

morality, ethics, the family, the loss of wealth, patriotism, and the erosion of our liberty and freedom of speech and the right to bear arms according to our Judeo-Christian based Constitution.

5. The Trojan-horse has been Public education and the Universities, through indoctrination and now we are seeing compulsive legislation of laws to force Americans to corrupt their children or be fined or punished by law.

\* A few recent examples are the repealing of Marriage defined as between a man and a woman, in Prop 22, passing by 61% and Prop 8 by 52:24 % on Nov. 4, 2008, but the California Supreme Court said it was unconstitutional, the other is the passing of bill AB1266 by Governor Jerry Brown that allows any child in school to used restrooms or locker rooms of their choosing, depending if he or she feel like they are a boy or girl that day!

Jesus Christ said to the Pharisees that they were hypocrites because they could discern the weather by the signs of that day, yet they could not discern the signs of the time in relations to God through His Word. Matt. 16:1-3

\* The believer is to understand the signs of the time for the rapture and the Second Coming!

The book of Judges is a blueprint of what a nation or a person must do to destroy themselves and it is guaranteed to work!

So to begin, I want to take a broad view of the book in term of five key elements present that are responsible for an ungodly decaying society.

- I. The failure to follow strong leadership.
- II. The failure to drive out the unclean and ungodly out of our lives.
- III. The failure of believers to marry unbelievers.
- IV. The failure of sincere repentance.
- V. The failure of a generation that neither knows the Lord or the works the Lord.

#### **I. The failure to follow strong leadership.**

A. Joshua in his farewell speech left the people with strong leadership having entered and possessed much of the land. Josh. 24

1. “But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for He *is* a holy God. He *is* a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve the LORD!” vs. 19-21
2. “So Joshua said to the people, “You *are* witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD for yourselves, to serve Him.” And they said, “*We are* witnesses! Now therefore,” *he said*, “put

away the foreign gods which *are* among you, and incline your heart to the LORD God of Israel.” vs. 22-23

3. “So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak that *was* by the sanctuary of the LORD. And Joshua said to all the people, “Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD which He spoke to us. It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God.” vs. 25-27
4. Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of the LORD which He had done for Israel. vs. 31

**B.** The book of Judges confirms the recorded words of Joshua’s leadership.

1. The first two chapters are an overlap to connect the transition.
  - a. Joshua had died already. Josh. 24:29
  - b. Joshua’s death is confirmed. Judges 2:8-9
  - c. The first two chapter is supplementary information, as God spoke in order to lead them. Judges 1:1

2. The tragic record of their refusal to follow the strong leadership is engraved for ever. Judges 2:10-12
  - a. “When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.” vs. 10
  - b. “Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals” vs. 11
  - c. “and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from *among* the gods of the people who *were* all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger.” vs. 12
3. There are two key phrases to describe the character of the period of the Judges.
  - a. “Every man was doing that which was right in his own eyes.” Judges 17:6; 21:25
  - b. “In those days, there was no king in Israel.” Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25
  - c. All the confusion and disorder is directly related to no real leadership!

### Illustration

The present weak leadership in America is a perfect example of the lack of strong moral and godly leadership!

### Application

1. You want to go to a church where there is healthy, strong consistent leaders, who are walking and have walked with God many years.

\* “But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” 2Tim. 3:13-15

2. You want to sit under leaders, who have proven themselves to the Lord and live what they teach.

\* “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.” 1Tim. 4:12-15

3. You want to serve leadership, who will hold you accountable to the Word of God, not beyond it.

\* “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with

joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” Heb. 13:17

***The failure to follow strong leadership will result in an ungodly decaying society!***

## **II. The failure to drive out the unclean and ungodly out of our lives.**

A. The Book of Judges reveals the compromise of a sanctified life to the Lord.

\* Now this is also true of each person in his or her relationship with Jesus Christ.

1. The people failed to drive out the people to possess their inheritance, even though God had given it to them. Judges 1

a. They failed to trust the Lord. “But the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem; so the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.” Judges 1:21

b. They failed to depend on the Lord, “However, Manasseh did not drive out *the inhabitants of* Beth Shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages; for the Canaanites were

- determined to dwell in that land.” vs. 27
- c. They became complacent, “And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites under tribute, but did not completely drive them out.” vs. 28
  - d. The same is stated for Ephraim, Zebulun, Asher, Naphtali, etc. vs. 29-33
2. The consequences is that God allowed them to reap their compromise.
    - a. To bear the weight of their sin in discomfort and pain, “Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be *thorns* in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.” Judges 2:3
    - b. To test those who would be obedient, “I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the LORD, to walk in them as their fathers kept *them*, or not.” Judges 2:21-22
  3. The standard had been required of their father Abraham. Gen. 12:1-3
    - \* “Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. I will

make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

### Illustration

You remember growing up and how you learned and picked up sinful destructive habits from those you hung out with and they from you.

### Application

1. God had warned them in the law that the land would vomit them out, as the previous inhabitants.
  - \* “You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit *any* of these abominations, *either* any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you‘(for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who *were* before you, and thus the land is defiled), ‘lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that *were* before you. ‘For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit *them* shall be cut off from among their people.” Lev. 18:26-29
2. These are the Perils of adversities. Deut. 6:16-19
  - \* “You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted *Him* in Massah. You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has

commanded you. And you shall do *what is* right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land of which the LORD swore to your fathers, to cast out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has spoken.”

**3. God was very specific.**

- a. “When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them *and* utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.” Deut. 7:1-2
- b. “But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their *sacred* pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire. For you *are* a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.” Deut. 7:5-6

**4. God is very specific in the New Testament about our sanctification.**

- a. We live in the world, but we are not of the world any longer, therefore we must brake

with all things that would compromise, tempted and corrupt us. 2Cor. 6:17-18

\* Paul says, “Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.”

- b. We are human and have the same sex drive as before we were Christians, but we want to remove ourselves from the things that would inflame our passions. 1Thess. 4:4-7

\* “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.”

- c. We are aware that our body is the temple of God, I have been set free from the drinking, drugs, smoking and the carousing. Rom. 12:1-2

\* “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable

to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

***The failure to drive out the unclean and ungodly out of our lives will result in an ungodly decaying society!***

### **III. The failure of believers to marry believers.**

**A.** The book of Judges reveals a destructive pattern of inter-marrying with unbelievers.

**1.** The disobedience was knowing they were not to do so. Judges 3:6

\* “And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods.

**a.** There is a joining of two families into one, light and darkness.

\* The darkness has nothing to do with the fact that they are evil, but the fact that they are lost, not saved.

**b.** There is an authority being submitted to another and authority being imposed by another.

\* You are bound for life!

**c.** There is a divided home serving different Gods.

\* Two can not walk together unless they are agreed. Amos 3:3

**2.** The outcome is treacherous unfaithfulness to God. Judges 3:7

\* “So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs.”

**a.** The believer is often pulled back into the darkness.

**b.** They practice the evil

**c.** They serve sensual and corrupt gods of pleasure.

**B.** The book of Judges reveals one of the judges fell into this trap of marrying unbelieving women, his name was Samson.

**1.** Samson was the twelfth judge.

**a.** He was not to drink wine, nor eat anything unclean, until his death. Judges 13:4, 7

**b.** He was called to be a Nazarite from birth to deliver Israel from the Philistines and was never to cut his hair. Judges 13:5

**2.** Samson was always attracted to the pagan women, the first was a daughter of the Philistines.

**a.** “So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, “I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the

Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.” Judges 14:2

- b. “Then his father and mother said to him, “*Is there* no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?” And Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she pleases me well.” Judges 14:3
- 3. Samson visited a harlot in Gaza. Judges 16:1
  - a. He was a bad witness to his sanctified life of a Nazarite.
  - b. He was a slave to his sexual passions and lust.
- 4. Samson fell in love with another Philistine woman.
  - a. Her name was Delilah, who lived in the Valley of Zorek. Judges 16:4
  - b. Her treachery cost him his eyes and life. Judges 16:21, 30

### **Illustration**

Sharon, my brother Raul’s wife was a Christian, the daughter of missionaries and she dated unbelievers and my brother got her pregnant. She destroyed her witness and brought years of suffering upon herself and her children, thinking she knew better than God!

### **Application**

1. The New Testament is very clear about the sanctification relationships and marriage.

\* “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?” 2Cor. 6:14-15

- a. This includes spending too much time with unbelievers, for the simple reason that they will influence your morals and corrupt your commitment to the Lord.
- b. This includes dating, boy-friends or girl-friend.
- c. This includes getting engaged to an unbeliever, including marriage.
- d. This includes going in business with an unbeliever.
  - \* “Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her.” Gen. 34:1-2

2. The subtle influence and breakdown of your Christian world view is certain.

- a. It puts you in a position of choosing whom you are going to please, God or your mate.
- b. You open yourself up to contamination of attitudes, values, double meaning and thinking.



- c. You are taking a chance on forsaking the Lord, particularly when the woman get involved sexually, she is tied emotionally more than the man.
  - \* Remember the counsel of Balaam to Balak to have the young Midianite women introduce to the men of Israel practices of their gods. Num. 25, 31:16
- d. Your house will be divided as to raising the children to have faith and living for Jesus.
  - \* Jeremiah says, “For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewn them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.” Jer. 2:13

***The failure of believers to marry a believer will perpetuate an ungodly and decaying society!***

#### **IV. The failure of sincere repentance.**

- A. The book of Judges presents to us thirteen judges, which indicate thirteen stages of bondage.
  1. Othaniel.
  2. Ehud.
  3. Shamgar.
  4. Deborah.
  5. Gideon.
  6. Tola.
  7. Jair.
  8. Jephthah.

9. Ibzan.
  10. Elon.
  11. Abdon.
  12. Samson.
  13. Samuel.
- B. The cycle of these thirteen stages is marked by identical repetition acted out without any spiritual advancement or benefit.
    1. Apostasy.
    2. Bondage.
    3. Cry for deliverance.
    4. Deliverance.
    5. Brief obedience.
    6. Apostasy again.
  - C. The key phrases identifying the insincere repentance are recorded for us.
    1. They wept. Judges 2:4; 14:16, 17; 20:23, 26; 21:2
    2. Forsook the Lord. Judges 2:12, 13; 3:15
    3. The anger of the Lord was hot against Israel. Judges 2:14, 20; 3:8; 10:7
    4. The Lord raise up judges to deliver them. Judges 2:18; 3:9
    5. The children of Israel cried out to the Lord. Judges 3:9, 15; 4:3; 6:6; 7:21' 9:7; 10:10, 12: 15:18
    6. They reverted to behave more corrupt than their father. Judges 2:19
    7. Israel played the harlot. Judges 2:17; 8:27; 8:33

8. The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. Judges 2:11; 3:7. 12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1  
 \* Thirteen judges, thirteen cycles of insincere repentance!

### Illustration

There are many men in prison who are sorry for what they did, but their sorrow is for the consequences they had to pay, not sorrow for the crime or the damage imposed on the people.

\* This is regret, not true repentance!

### Application

1. An emotional outburst of crying and sorrow with expressions of remorse over what one has done is not necessarily sincere repentance.

- a. The individual will have a good cry and period of gloom only to go out and commit it all over again.
- b. Each time the act of sin having a lesser affect on the regret of doing it or even thinking it is wrong.

\* Matthew records the words of John the Baptist, “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as *our* father.’ For I say to you that God is

able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.” Matt. 3:7-9

2. True Biblical repentance brings about a change, of heart with a change of mind.

- a. There is not only emotional regret of the consequence, but the primary regret is the very act committed.
- b. The recognition that sin is primarily against God, then man.
- c. The specifics of Biblical repentance is four things.
  - 1) Recognition of one’s sin.
  - 2) Confession of one’s sin.
  - 3) Abandonment of one’s sin.
  - 4) Restoration of one’s sin, whenever possible, but it is not always possible and at time may not be prudent!  
 \* “I have not come to call *the* righteous, but **sinner**s, to repentance.” Lk. 5:32

3. Paul the apostle provides for us the Biblical definition of true repentance. 2Cor. 7:9-10

- a. Godly repentance benefits the person repenting, “Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.” vs. 9
- b. Godly repentance leads to eternal life, not regretted, “For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.” vs. 10

*The failure of sincere repentance is regret for the consequences in an ungodly and decaying society!*

**V. The failure of a generation that neither knows the Lord or the works the Lord.**

**A.** The book of Judges reveals a devastating fact resulting from these four elements ungodliness and decay, a generation came knowing nothing of God. Judges 2:10

\* “When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.”

1. They did not know the LORD, Yahweh.
  - a. This can happen by the parents not teaching their children the word of God, as well as not living it out.
  - b. This can happen by children and young people rejecting the teaching and not embracing it for themselves.
2. They did not know the work Yahweh had done for Israel.
  - a. This can only happen if the past works of God were not communicated to their children.
  - b. The memorial altars to remind them about what God did were all around them in the land.

\* “Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; and Joshua said to them: “Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, “that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, ‘What do these stones *mean* to you?’” Josh. 4:4-6

**B.** The man Moses declared the perils of not passing our faith to the next generation. Deut. 6:7-9

- \* “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. “
- a. The word and testimony of God was to be the center of life in the home as they sat, walked and went to bed and again the next day.

- b. The parents were to have the word of God close to their mind and heart, as a witness to their children.
- c. The parents were to have scripture written out around the house for the children to see and read. Deut. 2:20-25
- d. The generation after Joshua and the elders did not do this, so the people did not know Yahweh nor His works!

### **Illustration**

The present generation of America and the world is godless, trusting in the goodness and abilities of man and very hostile to morality and Christianity!

### **Application**

1. Don't be satisfied with your children going through the motions, but make sure you know where they are at, in the Lord.
2. We as parents should communicate to our kids all God does in our lives, as they are growing up.
3. Boundaries and godly principles have to be designated and upheld, along with consequences.
4. Remember a compromise as parents only weakens if not destroys your authority.
5. There are some mistakes we make as parents.
  - a. We allow our children to carry out their own lives under our roof contrary to the word, thinking it will get better or worst yet that it will be alright.

- b. When our children make bad decisions we allow them to escape their consequences, so we destroy our own authority in the home.
  - c. We allow our children to decide if they want to go to church, no the entire family goes to church!
  - d. I cannot force my child to serve, love or know God, but I can and will always demand that they conform to the standards of the home and church is a priority!
  - e. If I compromise and rationalize in my mind that if my child is brought up in the Lord, when he is old he will not depart, I am deceiving myself!
    - \* This is not automatically, if you believe this, then you must be a Calvinist, once saved always saved!
  - f. The truth is that I am helping to destroy my child and God will hold me responsible and accountable.
  - g. Do I think that if God did not tolerate compromise and disobedience for past generations, that I am the exception? I am deceiving myself!
  - h. Now I am not talking about running a military school, each and every one of us must discern how far to yield before I become a contributing factor to his or her rebellion. 1Sam. 2:22-25, 29, 3:13
6. If there is one thing that will contribute to the downfall of a nation or people it is the failure to

communicate the faith of Jesus Christ to our children.

7. It has been said that Christianity is always one generation from extinction.

***The failure of a generation that neither knows the Lord or the works the Lord has no restraint against living ungodly in a decaying society!***

### **Conclusion**

These are five key elements responsible for an ungodly decaying society in the book of Judges:

- I.** The failure to follow strong leadership!
- II.** The failure to drive out the unclean and ungodly out of our lives!
- III.** The failure of believers to marry unbelievers!
- IV.** The failure of sincere repentance!
- V.** The failure of a generation that neither knows the Lord or the works the Lord!