

Book of Judges

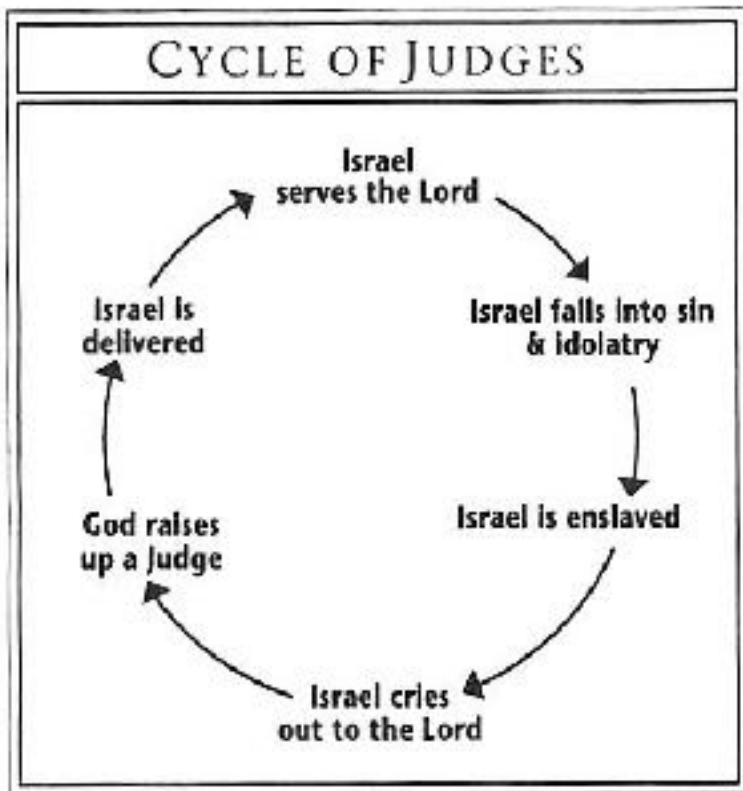
Part 2

God's Peace Maker

Last Week

Vs. 10

After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.



1. You can't serve God if you don't know Him
2. God raises up Heroic Leaders as an Instrument in his hands

Judges 2

20 Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel and said, “Because this nation has violated the covenant I ordained for their ancestors and has not listened to me, **21** I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died. **22** I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the Lord and walk in it as their ancestors did.”

Judges 3

1 These are the nations the Lord left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan **2** (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience):

3 the five rulers of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in the Lebanon mountains from Mount Baal Hermon to Lebo Hamath.

4 They were left to test the Israelites to see whether they would obey the Lord’s commands, which he had given their ancestors through Moses.

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7 The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord; they forgot the Lord their God and served the Baals and the Asherahs. **8** The anger of the Lord burned against Israel so that he sold them into the hands of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram Naharaim, to whom the Israelites were subject for eight years.

When the Israelites walk humble before the Lord he lifts them up...
When they become proud and rebel against the Lord he brings them low...

Verse of the Day:

James 4:10

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

1. Pain was a Powerful Teacher for Israel

The Forging of Steel:

Forging Steel is the process of realigning the makeup of steel. It forms the grains together in a particular pattern and makes it much harder and stronger than regular cast steel.

Forging takes a hammer... and a flame... and an anvil... and a quench...

Here God will forge a new generation in Israel that is soft... and entitled... and lazy... and lacks conviction...

They didn't understand the price the former Generation paid...
They didn't know the God who lead them and provided for them...

Vs. 2 says

“He did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience.”

The cycle of the judges will bring them to their knees and cause them to cry out to God, and he will time and time again extend His mercy and compassion because he loves them and longs for Israel to walk in relationship and obedience to Him.

Vs. 9

9 But when they cried out to the Lord, he raised up for them a deliverer, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, who saved them.

2. The People of God Cried out to the Lord

After the eight years of bondage Israel finally cried out in need of God. It often takes something like this before man looks away from self and looks to God.

- This is a key phrase you will hear repeated in the book of Judges.
- “When they cried out to the Lord, he raised up for them a deliverer...”

Cry out paints a powerful picture in my mind...

The Bible says a lot about lamenting and mourning...

This seems to be the language God refuses to ignore...

A Broken and Contrite Heart he will not despise...

Something powerful happens when we Humble ourselves...

James 4

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. **9 Lament and mourn and weep!** Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Psalm 30:5

For His anger *is but for* a moment,

His favor *is for* life;

Weeping may endure for a night,

But joy *comes* in the morning.

Psalm 126:4-6

Restore our fortunes, Lord,

like streams in the Negev.

Those who sow with tears

will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out **weeping**,

carrying seed to sow,

will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.

The Lord is Gracious and Compassionate...

God still works this way today, He is the same yesterday, today and forever...

This applies to our lives...

He is Gracious towards us when we Humble ourselves...

He helps when we admit we need His help...

3. God begins to Move

Vs. 9

when they cried out to the Lord, he raised up for them a deliverer,

- **Oh when God begins to move you can feel it...**
- **When God begins to move people begin to rise up...**
- **When God begins to move there is war in the heavenly's...**
- **The Angels of God begin to war against the dark powers of Hell...**
- **We don't wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers...**

Video: Pastor Kilpatrick

Just the other day, I felt the Lord say, He is raising up Courage...

Do you remember the Story of David: 1 Samuel 17

- David shows up to bring his brothers lunch on the battle front...
- Goliath came out with his usual defiance...
- The Bible says, and David heard him...
- David said who is this Uncircumcised Philistine that he would dare taunt the armies of the living God...

26 David asked the men standing near him, **“What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel?”**

28 When Eliab, David’s oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, **he burned with anger**

29 “Now what have I done?” said David. **“Can’t I even speak?”**

— — —

32 David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”

33 Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man,

34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock,

35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. **36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them,**

- I don’t know which one, the lion or the bear, came first but both came before the Giant...
- We don’t know much about the lion but I can’t imagine it was full size lion... Perhaps it was a mountain lion...
- **Note:** Lions are dangerous because they sneak up on you...
- David was victorious over the little things that sneak up on you...

- After the Lion there was the bear...
- **Note:** Bears hibernate; that means they only come out in certain seasons...
- Before David was victorious over the Giant, God gave him victory over both, those things that sneak up on you and those things that come in certain seasons...

After the Lion and the Bear God gave David victory over a Giant...

God didn't give David a Giant to start out with...

The same is true in with you and I...

Courage grows...

from a lion... to a bear... to a Giant...

I believe we are living in an hour when God is growing Courage in His people...

The kind of Courage that takes Action...

It starts with the small things and grows to bigger things...

40 Then David took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. **49** Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

- That day David wasn't a Peace Keeper, David was a Peace Maker...

51 When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. **52** Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron.

- Courage Grew...
- That Day Courage became Contagious...
- David Didn't try to keep the peace with the Giant...
- That day David was a Peace Maker...

Judges 3

9 But when they cried out to the Lord, he raised up for them a deliverer, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, who saved them.

10 The Spirit of the Lord came on him, so that he became Israel's judge and **went to war**. The Lord gave Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram into the hands of Othniel, who overpowered him. **11 So the land had peace for forty years**, until Othniel son of Kenaz died.

He put his spirit inside of them...

He put his purpose inside of them...

Both acted as the Spirit lead...

Because of this Israel experienced peace over their enemy...

Matthew 5

- 3**
 "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
 for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4**
 Blessed are those who mourn,
 for they will be comforted.
- 5**
 Blessed are the meek,
 for they will inherit the earth.
- 6**
 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
 for they will be filled.

7

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

8

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

9

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.