

## The Judges/Samson

April 19, 2026



Old Testament: Points to the \_\_\_\_\_ New Testament: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Him

### 1. Exploring the \_\_\_\_\_ Judges

Judges in the Old Testament

1. Military deliverers
2. Spiritual leaders
3. Governors

Purpose 1: To deliver Israel from her oppressors

Purpose 2; To remind them of God's covenant

### 2. Examining the \_\_\_\_\_ Samson

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ astounding; Judges 14:6, 15:5, 16: 1-4
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ astounding; Judges 13: 2-5
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ astounding; Judges 14:1-3, 16:1, 16:4-21
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ astounding; Judges 16:23-30

### 3. Explaining the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus

#### Judges

1. Temporary delivers
2. Flawed leaders
3. Cycles of Sin
4. No King in Israel
5. Defeated few enemies

#### Jesus

1. Ultimate Deliverer
2. Perfect Judge
3. Final Victory
4. The One True Judge
5. Defeated all enemies

Here are the **15 Judges of Israel** as recorded in the Book of Judges (including both major and minor judges):

### Judges

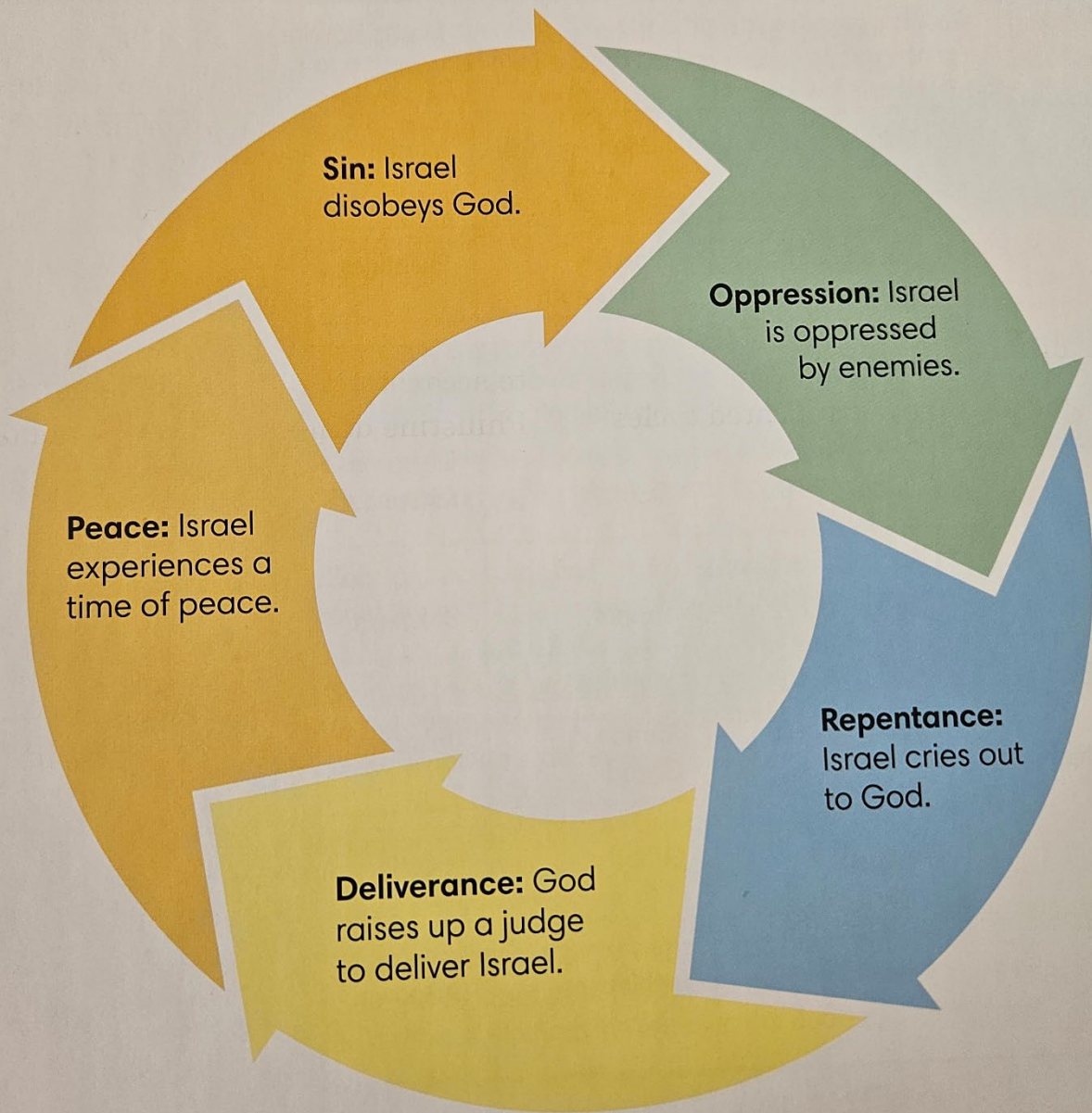
1. **Othniel** (Judges 3:7–11)
2. **Ehud** (Judges 3:12–30)
3. **Shamgar** (Judges 3:31)
4. **Deborah** (with Barak) (Judges 4–5)
5. **Gideon** (Judges 6–8)
6. **Abimelech** (a controversial “judge”/king-like ruler) (Judges 8–9)
7. **Tola** (Judges 10:1–2)
8. **Jair** (Judges 10:3–5)
9. **Jephthah** (Judges 11–12)
10. **Ibzan** (Judges 12:8–10)
11. **Elon** (Judges 12:11–12)
12. **Abdon** (Judges 12:13–15)
13. **Samson** (Judges 13–16)
14. **Eli** (1 Samuel 4:18)
13. **Samuel** (transitional judge/prophet at the end of the period – 1 Samuel 7)

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The term “judge” (Hebrew *shofet*) means **deliverer or leader**, a courtroom official.

4. Judges in the Old Testament
  - Military Deliverers
  - Spiritual Leaders
  - Governors
- These judges ruled in cycles of **sin → oppression → repentance → deliverance**.

# Cycle in the Book of Judges



### Discussion Questions:

1. The book of Judges shows a repeated cycle (sin → rebellion → oppression → deliverance). Where do you see similar patterns in your own life or in our culture today?
2. Judges 21:25 says, “*everyone did as they saw fit.*” What are some modern examples of this mindset, and what are the consequences?
3. The Judges were both leaders and flawed individuals. Why do you think God chose imperfect people to lead His people?
4. Samson was physically strong but spiritually inconsistent. What does his life teach us about the difference between outward strength and inward character?
5. Samson had clear boundaries through the Nazirite vow. Why are spiritual boundaries important, and what happens when we ignore them?
6. Samson repeatedly put himself in harmful situations (especially with the wrong relationships). What can we learn about decision-making and influence from his story?
7. How do small compromises (like Samson’s) eventually lead to major consequences?
8. Even after failure, Samson experienced a comeback. What does his final act teach us about repentance, grace, and God still using people?
9. Comparing Judges to Jesus: why is it important that Jesus is the *perfect* and *ultimate* Deliverer rather than just another “judge”?
10. If Jesus is the true King and Deliverer, what does it practically look like for us to live under His leadership instead of “doing what is right in our own eyes”?