

1. WHAT was God's GOVERNANCE plan for Israel after Moses & Joshua?

(Why did God not choose & Joshua mentor a 'next leader' for Israel after Joshua? Why no 'God given leadership succession plan' for Israel after Moses & Joshua & occupying the new land?

- a) God intended Israel to be a _____ (God is the only King of His people!)
- b) God gave Israel His _____ (Torah) foundational for individual/family/tribal/national life
- c) God gave Israel His guidelines for living life as His design for His people!
 - i) Deuteronomy 6:4,5 "*Love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul & mind...*"
 - ii) Deuteronomy 6:6-9 Generational responsibility to pass on truth, raise up a Godly next gen
 - iii) Exodus 20 The 10 Commandments "*you shall have NO other gods before Me*"
 - iv) Exodus 21-23 Social laws governing society function, justice & relationships
 - v) Exodus 24 The unique Covenant relationship between God & Israel
- d) God gave Israel His 'societal paradigm', with WORSHIP of God as CENTRAL to all else / God's Presence among His people...as evidenced by the Tabernacle, later Temple.
- e) God gave Israel His 'sacrificial system' (Leviticus) for dealing with Sin
- f) God gave Israel His 'festival paradigm' calling Israel to pause & remember & honor God as families several times each year, then come to the Tabernacle/Temple 3x/year. Allegiance!
- g) God gave Israel the Tribe of LEVI as spiritual leaders/mentors living dispersed in Israel
- h) God gave Israel a Spiritual leadership structure... High Priest / Priests / Levites / Prophets
- i) God gave Israel Social leadership structure... Tribal Elders / Cities of Refuge / trials / justice

2. What was the "Judges Cycle"? Why did it happen? Is it NOW the same repetitive cycle?

- **God's people live God honoring, God blessed lives**
- **God's people drift away from God, become enthralled with godless living**
 - Proverbs 4:23 disregarded, hearts are drawn to darkness
 - Deuteronomy 6:4-9 disregarded, worship given to other 'gods' (things, people, \$\$)
- **God's people suffer as God withdraws His hand of protection & blessing**
 - God cannot /will not bless sin, especially unrepentant, prideful rebellion against God
 - God ceases to protect His people against darkness / applies discipline / judgment
- **God's people cry out for God's help, acknowledging their sin in repentance**
- **God responds to the cry of His people & raises up a God obedient leader**
- **God forgives His people, restores relationship with Him, revitalizes spiritual passion**
- **God repels the oppressive darkness... individually / families / localities / nation**
- **God restores His people to His blessing, provision, protection, peace & prosperity**
- **God's people resume living God honoring lives. . . BUT soon drift away from God again**