“Judges; The Cycle of Sin”

Each cycle of sin consists of 5 parts. It could be drawn as a circle with five stages:
1. Their ____

2. Their _____

3. Their _____

4. Their _____

5. Their _____

Discussion Questions:
- From the sin cycles and history contained in the book of Judges, we are reminded of several things: one, that God rules in history, and second, that sometimes God gives nations the leaders that their sins deserve. What are your thoughts?

- The book of Judges (and the first portion of Romans 13) remind us that God uses human government to accomplish His will. What are your thoughts?

- According to Judges 2:14, God allowed Israel to be plundered; how does this harmonize with passages portraying Him as ever-faithful protector?

- The book of Judges also reminds us that God does not tell us the whole story all at once, and His story is not yet finished. What are your thoughts?

"A Stroll Through the Scroll"
A Walk Through God's Word

Bible Book; ***Judges***

I. Title of the Book;

Judges takes its name from the occupation or profession of the leaders who ruled and rescued Israel from foreign intervention during the period between Joshua and the beginning of monarchy, or the first part of the book of Samuel.

II. Writer of the Book;

Judges was most likely written during the early period of the monarchy, possibly during the reign of King Saul. The most likely author, or compiler, of the book was Samuel, God's prophet at the time of King Saul.

The date of the accounts in Judges occurs between 1380-1050 BC, their first 300 years in the Promised Land. The date given for its writing is 1050-1010 BC.

III. Theme or Purpose of the Book;

Judges 17:6 is the key verse of the book, leading to its theme. "In those days there was no king in Israel, every man did that which was right in his own eyes." The somewhat repetitious theme in Judges is that the Israelites failed to totally consolidate their land and keep their religion, which led to oppression by their enemies. At this they would cry out to God for help, in which He would answer by sending them a "judge." This was most often a person very dedicated to God and one that would deliver the people from their oppressors. This repeats throughout the entire book and becomes what is known as the "cycle of sin."

IV. Outline of the Book;

A. Introduction to the period; 1:1-2:5,
    1. Political conditions; 1:1-36,
    2. Religious conditions; 2:1-5,
B. Period of the judges; 2:6-16:31,
    1. Religious condition, introduces cycle of sin; 2:6-3:6,
    2. The judges, 12 in all; 3:7-16:31,
C. Sinful conditions during the period; 17:1-21:25,
    1. Idolatry of Micah and Danites; 17:1-18:31,
    2. Crime at Gibeah and punishment; 19:1-21:25.

V. Suggested Personal or Group Study Sections in the Book;

- Consider the cycle of sin and forgiveness, 2:6-3:11, and think of the many parallels to American life.
- Attempt one or two character studies based on the life of a judge from this book.
- Any other possible interests.

VI. How is Jesus Christ seen in this book;

He is the Judge/Deliverer who is just (He is also the Lion who conquers His enemies and the King mankind needs).

For Personal or Group Studies

Always remember that the Bible is God's infallible, inerrantly inspired authoritative Word.

Book;

Human Author;

Approximate date of events;

Theme, Purpose, Principal characters;

Study Section; _____

Summary of section;

Interpretation; What was the author trying to say to his audience? Within the historical and grammatical context what did it mean to them?

Application; What does it mean to you (be specific)? Practical areas; family, church, job, nation, sins, examples, promises, etc.

Favorite portion or verse;