

JESUS IN ALL | JUDGES – Jesus: Our Ultimate Judge and Deliverer

Sunday, March 2, 2025

WELCOME & PRAY

MAIN TEXT

***2** Judges 2:16 CSB – *The Lord raised up judges, who saved them from the power of their marauders.*

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the Book of Judges, we observe a seeming never-ending cycle where Israel repeatedly fell into sin, suffered oppression, cried out to God, and was delivered by judges whom God raised up. These judges were not mere legal figures but **God-appointed deliverers**, foreshadowing **the ultimate Deliverer—Jesus Christ**. Just as Israel needed deliverance from their enemies, humanity needs rescue from **sin, death, and the power of Satan**, and *our* never-ending cycles.

***3** 1. JUDGES WERE GOD’S APPOINTED DELIVERERS

The Role of a Judge in Israel

- *4** The Hebrew word for “judge” (שׁוֹפֵט, shophēt) refers not only to someone who settles disputes but also to a military leader and rescuer. The term is often used in the context of leaders or judges who are responsible for maintaining order and justice within a community or nation (Judges 2:18).
- It can also imply the act of vindicating the righteous or punishing the wicked. The concept of judgment was deeply rooted in the covenant relationship between God and Israel, where God was seen as the ultimate judge who established justice and righteousness.¹

Jesus as the Greater Judge

- Judges 3:9 – *The Lord raised up Othniel son of Kenaz as a deliverer to save the Israelites.*
- Judges 6:14 – God called Gideon to save Israel from the Midianites, just as Jesus was sent to save His people (Matthew 1:21).
- Luke 4:18 – Jesus declares, *He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives.*
- John 8:36 – *So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.* (free indeed) underscores the actual existence or occurrence of something, distinguishing it from mere appearance or pretense.
- *5** Just as Israel needed judges to rescue them from external enemies, we need Jesus to deliver us from the enemy of sin.
- *6** *Are we calling out to Jesus for deliverance, or trying to fight battles on our own?*

***7** 2. THE JUDGES BROUGHT TEMPORARY DELIVERANCE, BUT JESUS BRINGS ETERNAL SALVATION

Israel’s Cycle of Sin and Temporary Deliverance

- Read** Judges 2:19 – After a judge died, the people returned to their sin and oppression followed.
- The judges could not provide lasting freedom—Israel needed a better deliverer.

Jesus’ Eternal Deliverance

- *8** Hebrews 7:25 – *He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them.*
- Romans 6:14 – *For sin will not rule over you, because you are not under the law but under grace.*
- Unlike the judges, Jesus delivers once and for all through His death and resurrection (Heb. 9:12).

Greek Parallel: “Save” in the New Testament

- *9** The Greek word “σῶζω” (sōzō) means “to rescue, heal, or save completely,” and encompasses deliverance from sin and restoration to a right relationship with God.

¹ <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/8199.htm>

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- ***10** While judges in the Old Testament saved Israel from physical oppression, Jesus saves from sin and eternal death (Romans 10:9-10).
- *Are we depending on temporary fixes for our struggles, or trusting Jesus for lasting deliverance?*

***11 3. THE JUDGES WERE FORESHADOWS, BUT JESUS IS THE TRUE AND FINAL DELIVERER**

***12** Foreshadows of Jesus in the Book of Judges

- **Othniel** (Judges 3:9-11) → First judge, empowered by the Spirit (like Jesus, Luke 4:1).
- **Deborah** (Judges 4-5) → A prophetess and leader, wise and just (Jesus is our perfect wisdom, 1 Corinthians 1:30 – *It is from him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom from God for us*).
- **Gideon** (Judges 6-8) → Delivered Israel with a small army; Jesus defeated Satan with humility and the cross (Philippians 2:8).
- **Samson** (Judges 13-16) → His death brought victory to Israel, just as Jesus' death brought salvation to all (John 12:24, Colossians 2:15).

Jesus is the Greater Deliverer

- Acts 13:23 – *From this man's descendants, as He promised, God brought to Israel the Savior, Jesus.*
- ***13** Colossians 1:13 – *He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves.*
- ***14** John 17:14-16 – *We are in the world but not of the world.*
- Revelation 19:11-16 – Jesus is not just a deliverer; He is the conquering King who has fully defeated evil (Rider on the white horse "King of kings, Lord of lords").
- *Do we recognize that **only Jesus** can bring true and eternal deliverance?*

CONCLUSION: Jesus is Our Ultimate Judge and Deliverer

The Book of Judges points us to our need for a greater, perfect Deliverer. While human judges brought **temporary** relief, Jesus destroys the power of sin and death forever. Just as God raised up judges in the past, He has now raised up Jesus, the eternal Deliverer, for all who believe!

***15 PRAY/ ALTAR INVITATION**

- **Cry out** to Jesus as your Deliverer.
- **Live in** the freedom He provides. Stop falling back into old cycles like Israel.
- **Trust Him**. The judges could only do so much, but **Jesus saves completely**.

BENEDICTION