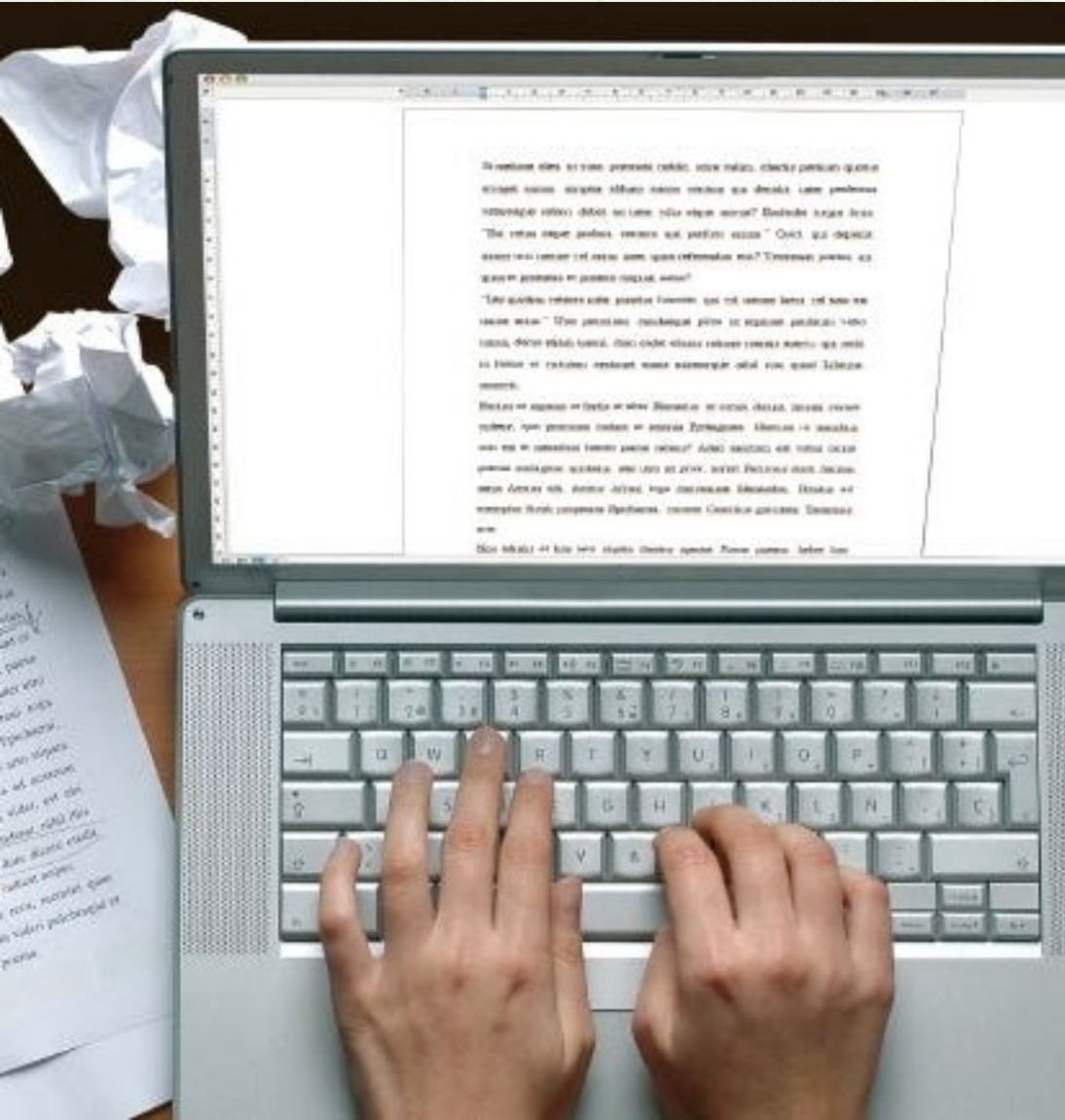






JUDGES
*The Search for a
Better Savior &
Renewal that Lasts*



The background features a detailed, sepia-toned illustration of biblical scenes. On the left, a warrior in a helmet and armor blows a horn, with another figure in armor standing nearby. On the right, a large, muscular man with curly hair is shown in a state of distress or pain, with his hands bound behind his back. The central text is overlaid on a large, light blue circular graphic.

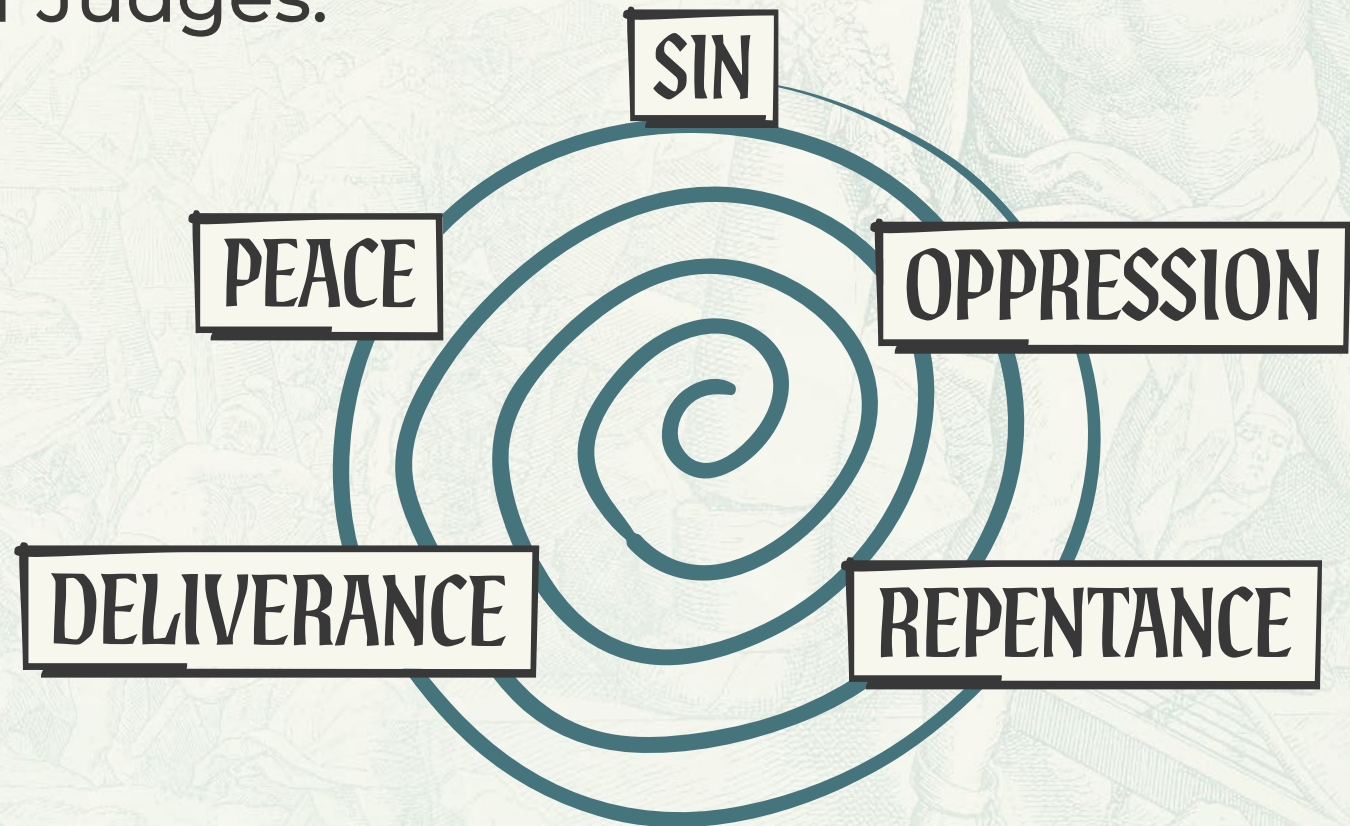
JUDGES

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The Book of Judges

c.1375/1210 B.C.

The incomplete conquest of the Promised Land sets the stage for the book of Judges.

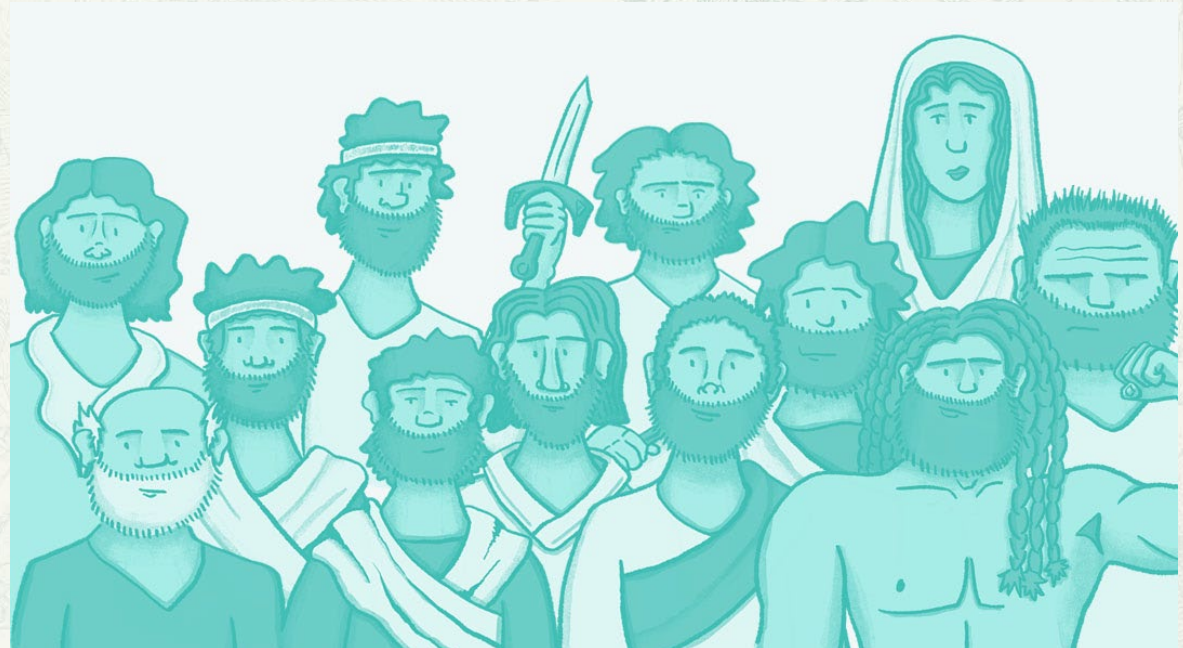


The Book of Judges

Judge (Hebrew: *shaphat*): Not primarily a person who decides legal disputes. Instead, the judges are deliverers, military leaders, and governors that God raises up to rescue Israel from oppression.

The Judges

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. Othniel | 7. Jair |
| 2. Ehud | 8. Jephthah |
| 3. Shamgar | 9. Ibzan |
| 4. Deborah | 10. Elon |
| 5. Gideon | 11. Abdon |
| 6. Tola | 12. Samson |



The Dangers of Half-Hearted Obedience

Judges 1:1-2:5

God is faithful to save us from our half-hearted obedience.

1. God commands his people to trust & obey him completely
2. People respond with half-hearted obedience
3. God provides a champion to win blessings for his people anyway

God Commands His People to Trust & Obey Him Completely

¹ After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel inquired of the LORD, “Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?” ² The LORD said, “Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand.” ³ And Judah said to Simeon his brother, “Come up with me into the territory allotted to me, that we may fight against the Canaanites. And I likewise will go with you into the territory allotted to you.” So Simeon went with him. ⁴ Then Judah went up and the LORD gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand, and they defeated 10,000 of...

God Commands His People to Trust & Obey Him Completely

...them at Bezek. ⁵ They found Adoni-bezek at Bezek and fought against him and defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites. ⁶ Adoni-bezek fled, but they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and his big toes. ⁷ And Adoni-bezek said, “Seventy kings with their thumbs and their big toes cut off used to pick up scraps under my table. As I have done, so God has repaid me.” And they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there.

Joshua 1:1-7 (ESV)

God Commands His People to Trust & Obey Him Completely



The Book of Joshua: God commands his people to take the land of Canaan and grants them success.

The Book of Judges: God commands his people to follow through and fully possess and inhabit the land.

God Commands His People to Trust & Obey Him Completely

The Conquest of Canaan

1. The Bible describes it as a unique act of God's just judgement

Genesis 15:16 – God tells Abraham that Israel will eventually return to Canaan but not yet because “the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

Leviticus 18:24-25, 27-28 – Describes how the land will vomit out its inhabitants because of their unclean and abominable practices.

Deuteronomy 9:4-5 – God tells Israel not to proudly assume that they're inheriting the land because of their righteousness. Instead, it's because of the wickedness of the Canaanites.

God Commands His People to Trust & Obey Him Completely

The Conquest of Canaan

1. The Bible describes it as a unique act of God's just judgement
2. The Bible describes it as a necessary step to protect God's people against future spiritual compromise

Deuteronomy 20:16-18 – God tells the Israelites to devote the cities of the Canaanites to complete destruction so that “they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the LORD your God.”

God Commands His People to Trust & Obey Him Completely

The Conquest of Canaan

1. The Bible describes it as a unique act of God's just judgement
2. The Bible describes it as a necessary step to protect God's people against future spiritual compromise
3. God executes this same judgement against his own people

Deuteronomy 8:19-20 – God warns “...if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.”

God Commands His People to Trust & Obey Him Completely

The Conquest of Canaan

1. The Bible describes it as a unique act of God's just judgement
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3. God executes this same judgement against his own people
4. People could be spared by turning to the God of Israel

Rahab (Joshua 2) & the Gibeonites (Joshua 9)

God Commands His People to Trust & Obey Him Completely

The Conquest of Canaan

1. The Bible describes it as a unique act of God's just judgement
2. The Bible describes it as a necessary step to protect God's people against future spiritual compromise
3. God executes this same judgement against his own people
4. People could be spared by turning to the God of Israel
5. It is a picture of God's coming wrath against all sin

2 Peter 2:4-10 – Describes earthly judgments as “an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly.”

God Commands His People to Trust & Obey Him Completely



The Book of Judges: God commands his people to follow through and fully *possess and inhabit* the land.

Likewise, God wants your total trust and complete obedience.

God People Respond with Half-hearted Obedience

And the LORD was with Judah, and he took possession of the hill country, but he could not drive out the inhabitants of the plain because they had chariots of iron.

Judges 1:19

But the people of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem, so the Jebusites have lived with the people of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

Judges 1:21

God People Respond with Half-hearted Obedience

Israel Failed to Complete the Conquest

Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants...

And Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites...

Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants...

Asher did not drive out the inhabitants...

Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants...

Judges 1:27-36



God People Respond with Half-hearted Obedience

Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, “I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you, ² and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done? ³ So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you.” ⁴ As soon as the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the people of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept. ⁵ And they called the name of that place Bochim. And they sacrificed there to the LORD.

Judges 2:1-5

God People Respond with Half-hearted Obedience

Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shean and its villages... When Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not drive them out completely.

Judges 1:27-28



God People Respond with Half-hearted Obedience

Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shean and its villages... When Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not drive them out completely.

Judges 1:27-28

Where are you saying, “I can’t”
but God is saying, “You won’t”?



God Provides a Champion to Win Blessings for His People Anyway

Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, “I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you, and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done?”

Judges 2:1-2



God Provides a Champion to Win Blessings for His People Anyway

From there they went against the inhabitants of Debir. The name of Debir was formerly Kiriath-sepher. And Caleb said, "He who attacks Kiriath-sepher and captures it, I will give him Achsah my daughter as wife."

Judges 1:11-12



God Provides a Champion to Win Blessings for His People Anyway

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming *obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

Philippians 2:8

Husbands, love your wives, *as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...*

Ephesians 5:25



The Dangers of Half-Hearted Obedience

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God is faithful to save us from our half-hearted obedience.

“Do this in remembrance of me.”
Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25

