

THE STORY
A Few Good Men and Women
Judges
Chapter 8 October 22, 2023
Pastor Mike Popovich

It is not that Israel killed all of these people groups. It is that they did not drive all of them out of the land. That will be the undoing of the relationship God wants to have with Israel.

When Israel became strong, they pressed the Canaanites into forced labor but never drove them out completely. Judges 1:28 NIV

	Cycle of Sin
Sin/Rebellion	Say no to God, worship other gods
Servitude/Retribution	They are ruled by a pagan people
Supplication/Repentance	They cry out to God to save them
Salvation/Response	God raises up a Judge to lead them
Silence/Rest	Israel follows the judge, worships God

They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the Lord's anger 13 because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. Judges 2:12-13 NIV

Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. 17 Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. They quickly turned from the ways of their ancestors, who had been obedient to the Lord's commands. 18 Whenever the Lord raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the Lord relented because of their groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them. 19 But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their ancestors, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.
Judges 2:16-19 NIV

A judge was a political and spiritual and military leader all rolled into one.

Deborah - A Woman of Influence.

Deborah was a prophet. She was speaking to the people whatever God told her to say. She was their leader.

"Certainly I will go with you," said Deborah. "But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman." Judges 4:9 NIV

Following the defeat of Sisera under Deborah Israel experienced 40 years of God's grace until Deborah died. Enter the oppression of the Midianites.

Gideon - Means Man of Courage

But when they cry out to God, God answers. When you cry out to God, He will answer.

When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." Judges 6:12 NIV
Thus Midian was subdued before the Israelites and did not raise its head again. During Gideon's lifetime, the land had peace forty years.
Judges 8:28 NIV

Samson - A Man of Vindication.

Samson married a Philistine woman which put him at odds with the Philistines. Clash after clash led to his wife being killed. On one occasion he faced 3000 Philistines at one time and he killed 1000 with the jawbone of a donkey.

Samson led Israel for 20 years in the days of the Philistines.

29 Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, 30 Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived. Judges 16:29-30 NIV

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Judges 21:25 NAS

If you ask, God will always show you out of the cycle of sin.