

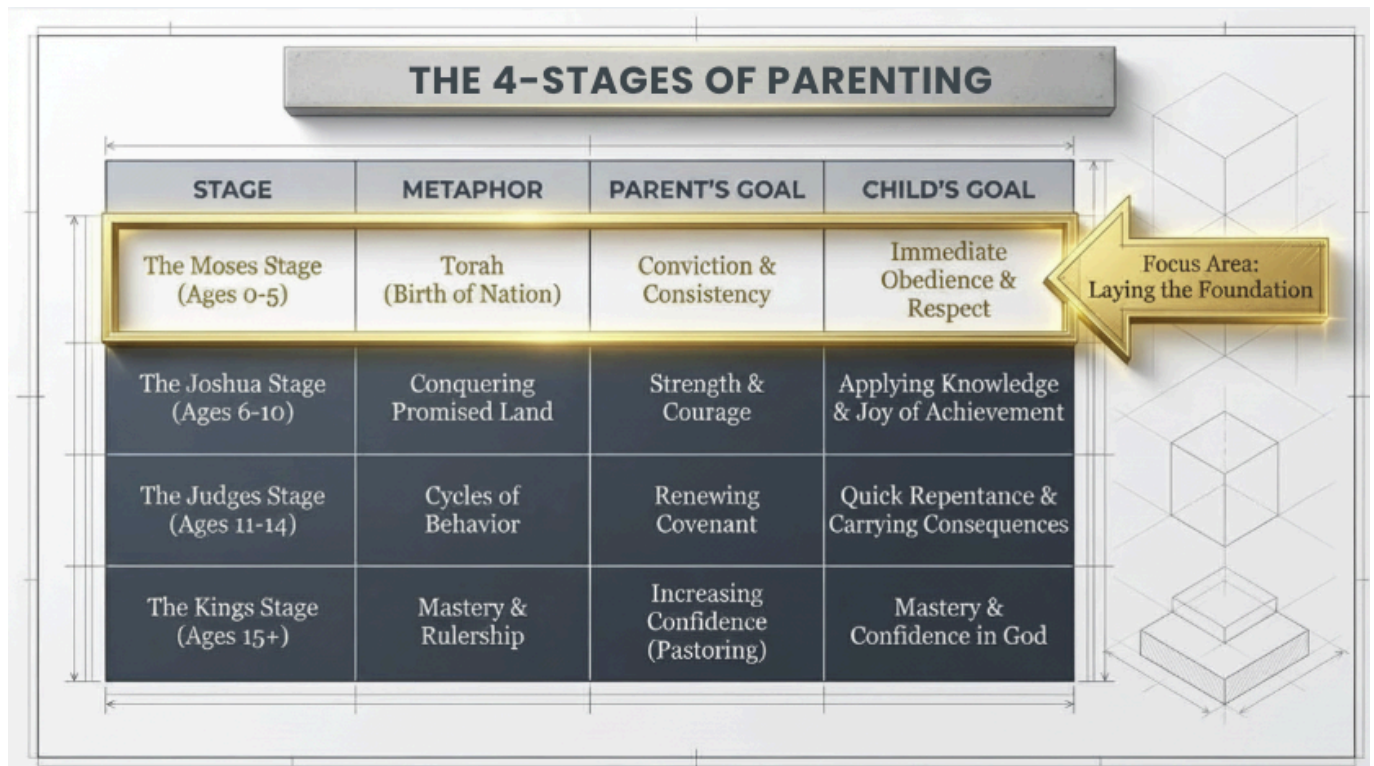
# Week #3 Judges Stage 2026

Wednesday, April 22, 2026  
3:42 PM

## PETER

Good Evening Arising Families,

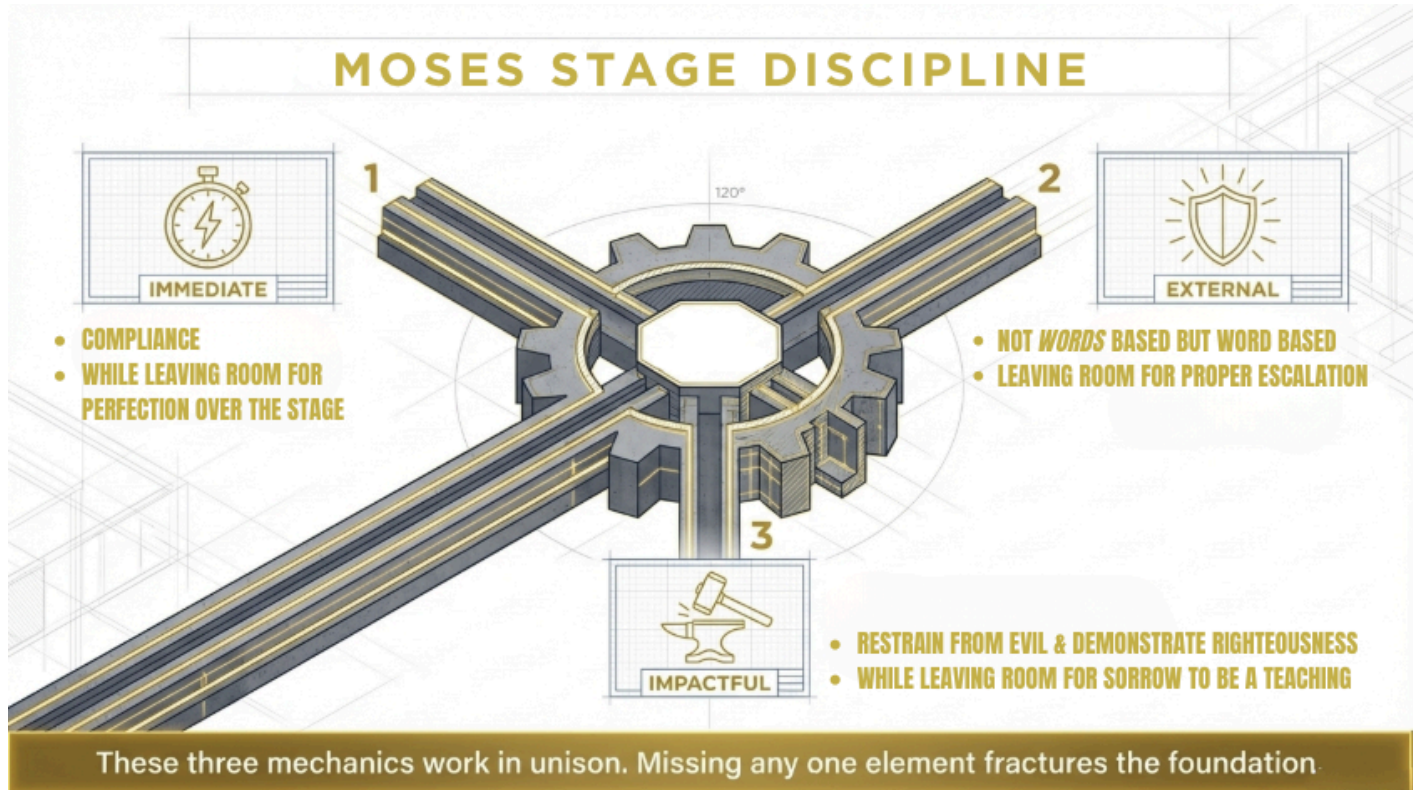
Tonight is our third week of parenting and we will be covering the Judges stage!  
Before we do let's do a brief review from the last two lessons:



In the Moses stage we are inclining the hearts of our 0-5 year olds toward obedience and respect. They won't have any freedoms and we parents, as always, will be faith filled and full of resolve!



The Moses stage is about setting a firm foundation in your parenting. This begins when Parents build convictions founded in the Word of God and live out those convictions with their children consistently. One of the primary ways parents do this is with discipline.



Discipline in the Moses stage is *immediate*, *external*, and *impactful*. This is meant to teach the children compliance and a framework for good and evil.

### **BEN**

This foundation is built on in the next stage: Joshua.

THE 4-STAGES OF PARENTING			
STAGE	METAPHOR	PARENT'S GOAL	CHILD'S GOAL
The Moses Stage (Ages 0-5)	Torah (Birth of Nation)	Conviction & Consistency	Immediate Obedience & Respect
The Joshua Stage (Ages 6-10)	Conquering Promised Land	Strength & Courage	Applying Knowledge & Joy of Achievement
The Judges Stage (Ages 11-14)	Cycles of Behavior	Renewing Covenant	Quick Repentance & Carrying Consequences
The Kings Stage (Ages 15+)	Mastery & Rulership	Increasing Confidence (Pastoring)	Mastery & Confidence in God

Building on the Foundation


Parents as you are full of strength and courage with your 6-10 year olds you are helping them begin to conquer their promised land. This is where the obedience and respect you invested in them begins to be applied in their lives and your young ones begin to learn the joy of achievement.

You should remember these principals:

**(READ SLIDE)**

# JOSHUA STAGE: AGES 6-10



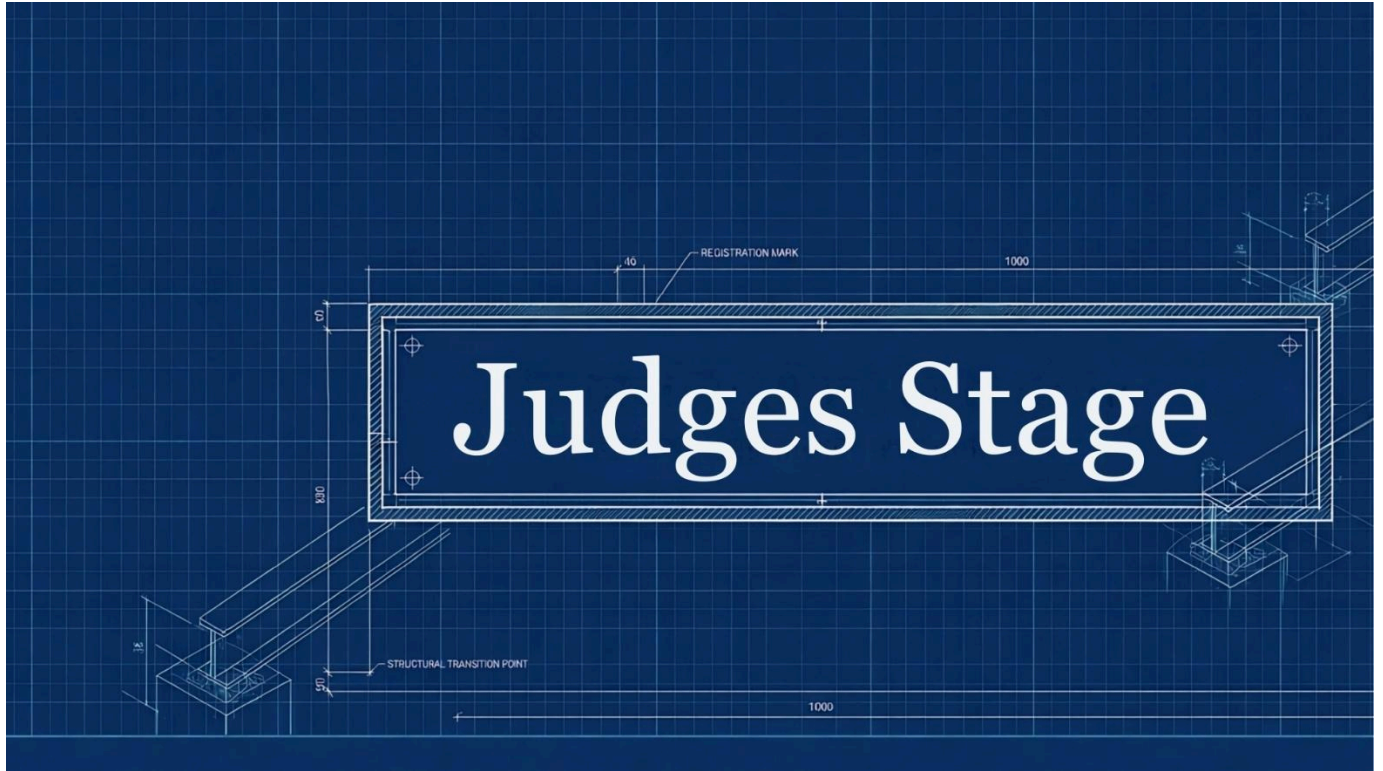
- ABSOLUTE JOY & ABSOLUTE TRUST
  - IDENTIFY THEIR OWN WEAKNESSES AND BEGIN THE PROCESS OF CONQUERING THEIR LAND
  - LEARN THE JOY OF ACHIEVEMENT
  - CURSES/BLESSINGS DERIVED FROM THE WORD
- 

This stage is meant to be exciting and encouraging. They learn to be full of joy as they trust you. Their weaknesses become a challenge that you help them see so that they can overcome! The seeds you sowed in the Moses stage will be sprouting fruit in this stage and you will begin to see righteousness and a desire to achieve.

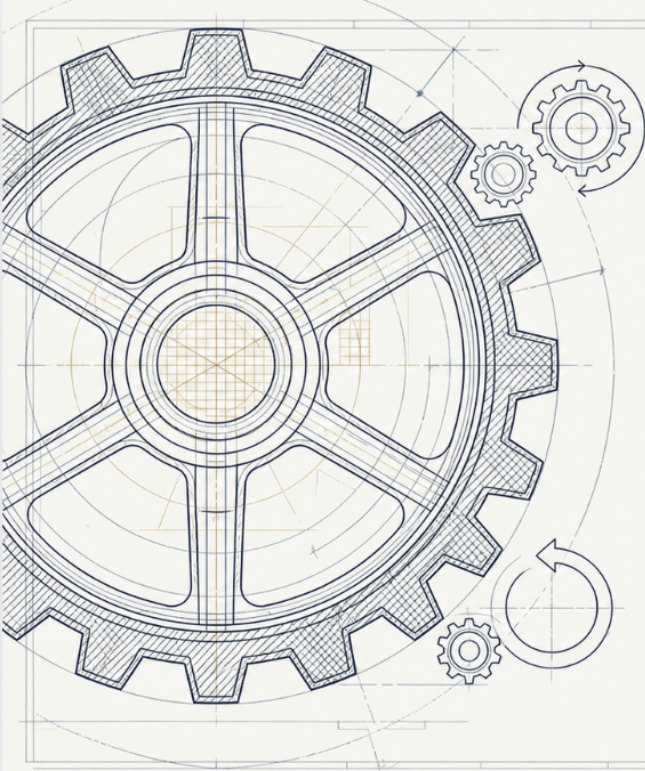

An essential facet we covered was learning to lead from the front! Parents, you are now preparing the way and showing them strength and courage they can reflect as they *begin* to conquer the land.

**NICK**






This leads us to tonight: the Judges Stage.



Now, as we enter our training on the Judges stage, let us help you understand your role and the role of your “almost adult” children!

## The Judges Stage: Ages 11–14 ish

-  More Freedom than Restriction
-  Warn their Souls  
*(With their flesh in full effect)*
-  Characterized by not eliminating consequences from choices made
-  More internal than external
-  Allowing them to eat the fruit of their labor

**Parenting your children as if they were in a previous stage will not and cannot produce the fruit that you are looking for in this stage. This stage of parenting is not for the faint of heart or for those who are weak-willed. You must be strong and courageous! This requires as much from the parents as it does from the child. As the age increases, so must your demonstration of faith in your parenting.**

Your heart, having been reformed by the Word of God, is still heavily influenced by your soul. The Nevi'im or Prophets are designed to warn your soul against the effects of sin and point you in the direction of God's truth that transcends your own thoughts, emotions, and desires. The Prophets are often in anguish over the condition of their nation and their words often cause anguish to the pliable soul that is in need of strong direction. This is a clear indication of what this time of parenting will look like for us.

For most parents, you haven't seen this level of anguish before—but this difficult season now lies before you. As a matter of fact, you might want to go back to simply demanding obedience and respect. This time around, however, is much more heartbreaking for both them and you. But praise God that His perfect

parenting, as seen in how He treated Israel during the time of the Judges, gives us the exact roadmap through the Nevi'im to gain victory in our generation!

The role of the Nevi'im is stated on a peshat level in:

**LYNDIE**

o **2 Kings 17:13 (NIV)**

13 The LORD warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: "Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your ancestors to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets."

**PETER**

The Judges Stage of parenting must be strongly prophetic in this regard. Throughout this time, we as parents must draw strong parallels between the condition of their hearts and the actual condition of their lives. This means helping them see how their internal motives and heart issues are manifesting in their outward actions and behaviors.

The most succinct representation of the time of the Judges comes from the final verse of the book of Judges:

**JOY**

o **Judges 21:25 (NIV)**

25 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

**PETER**

As parents, we will be striving to point out the effects of sin on a life that, if left unheeded, will lead them into captivity. We must emphasize that because children are doing what they think is right in their own eyes, parents must move beyond just demanding obedience. You must develop prophetic insight to see past a child's "mimicking" of godly language or a façade to address the actual condition of the heart. It is not a time to coast or relax...no, it is the opposite, **it is a time of increased spiritual awareness.**

At every stage we can't forget what we are preparing them for, what we are aiming for. We are raising Kings, we are not raising children.

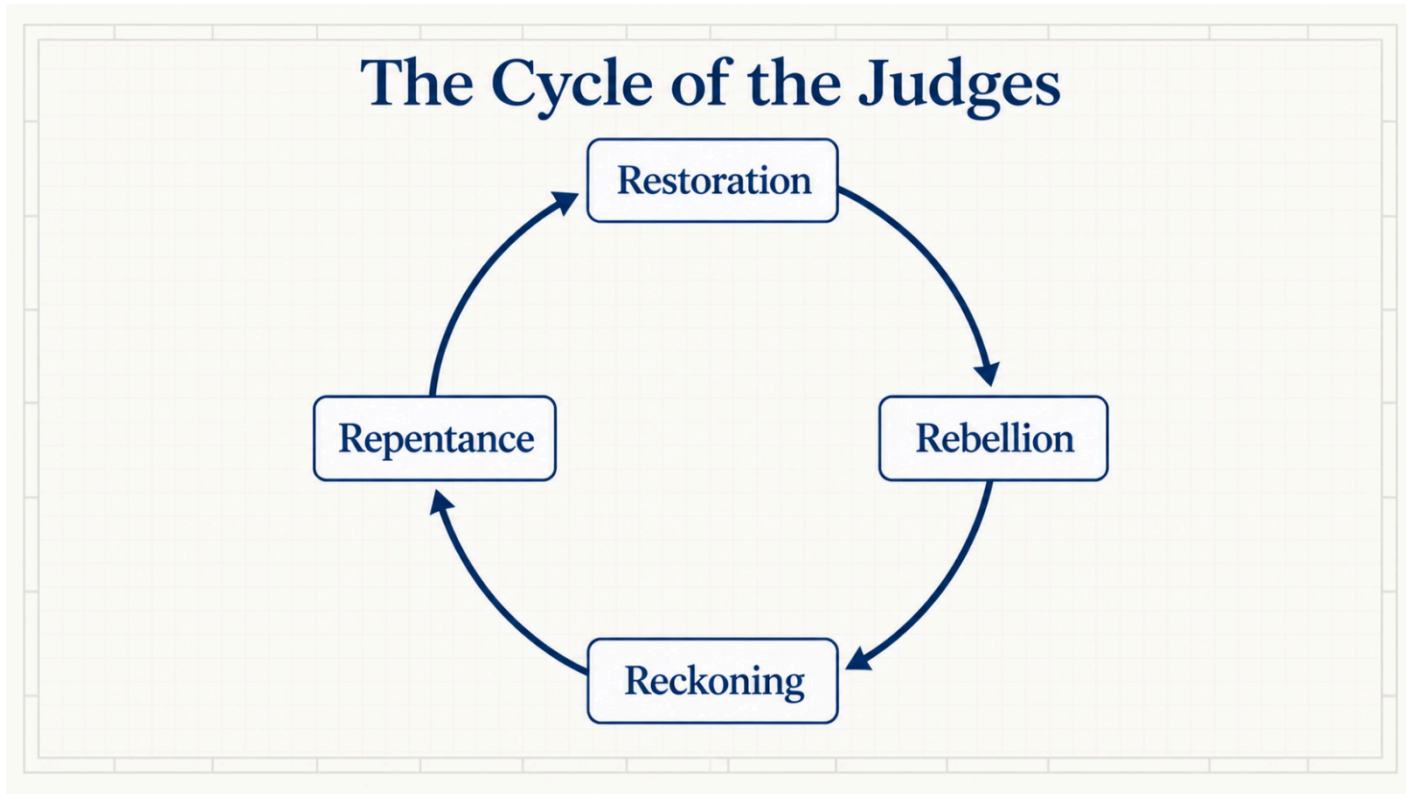
This Judges stage is preparing our children, now almost adults, for the desperation and need for the right kind of kingship in their lives.

- In 1 Samuel there is a king preferred by men, yet ultimately despised by God (1 Samuel 8:19–9:2)
- In 2 Samuel we see a king despised by men, yet ultimately preferred by God (1 Samuel 16:6–7 & 2 Samuel 6:21)

We are setting the backdrop for the Kings stage that is to come. But for now, let's return to the Judges stage and the cycles of behavior that are seen.

**BEN**

(Don't Read)



As you are looking at this slide, consider the historical pattern of Israel during the time of the Judges...which is a 400 Year period by the way, that followed the amazing leadership of Moses and Joshua. While Israel navigated this for centuries, you will ideally guide your almost-an-adult child through this specific cycle for about four years.

Up to this point, the child's development has been largely **linear**. There are very distinct growth markers between an infant, toddler, and a ten-year-old. However, at age 11, the process shifts and becomes **cyclical**. You may feel like you are

dealing with the same heart issues over and over again, but understanding this cycle will provide you with the vision needed to lead them through it.

The Cycle of the Judges:

- **Restoration:** Ideally, your child begins this stage coming out of the Joshua years in a "good place," walking in a restorative relationship with the Lord and the family
- **Rebellion:** Over time, as things go well, there is a human tendency to relax. In this phase, your child may fall into Rebellion, where sin and idolatry...specifically the desire to do "what is right in their own eyes" becomes the state in their heart.
- **Reckoning:** Rebellion inevitably leads to a Reckoning. Just as Israel was enslaved by enemies, your child will find themselves "hopelessly stuck" or "mired" in the weight of their own choices. They must be allowed to feel the full weight of their consequences until they reach a point of "great distress" and realize they cannot save themselves.
- **Repentance:** In that distress, the child begins to cry out. When you, acting as a God-ordained "Judge," intervene, you lead them toward true Repentance. This is more than a surface-level apology; it is an internal shift where they acknowledge their condition and desire change.
- **Restoration:** Through repentance and consecration, the child is brought back around to Restoration, where they are again set apart for God's use and return to a state of shalom with the family.

**NICK**

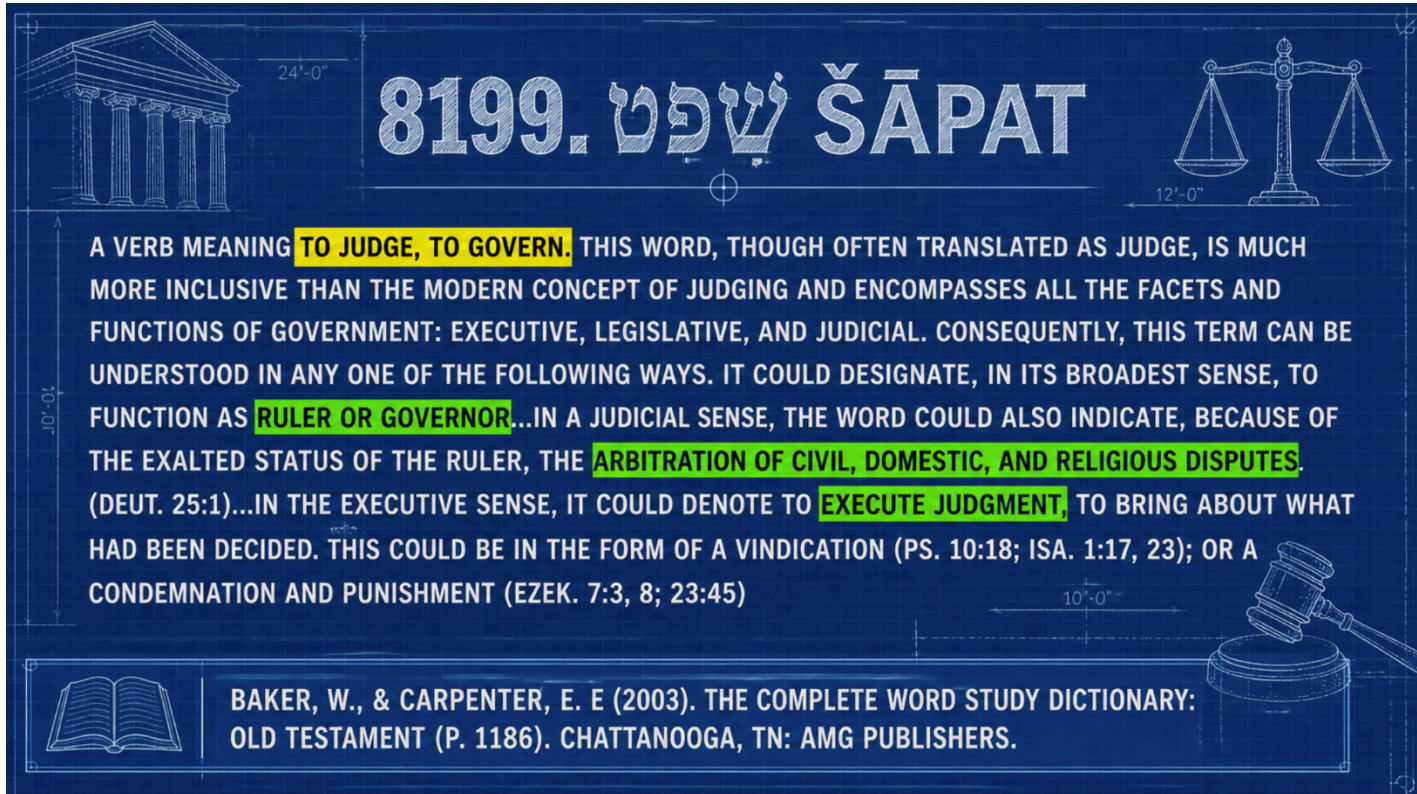
Again, do not be discouraged when this cycle repeats. This repetition is a NECESSITY of this stage. It is the process God uses to teach your children **warfare** and how to win battles against their own fleshly nature within the safety of your home. God will help you, and through these cycles, your child will grow and mature.

<<<INSERT 11 MINUTES GOONIES HERE>>>

Just as the children of Israel represent the progression of your children, the way God helped His leaders govern provides a model for your parenting. While you led as "Moses" in the Moses stage and "Joshua" in the Joshua Stage, you are now called to serve as a Judge to lead your son or daughter toward salvation.

**PETER**

(Do not read, They can reference it later)



**8199. שָׁפַט ŠĀPAT**

A VERB MEANING **TO JUDGE, TO GOVERN**. THIS WORD, THOUGH OFTEN TRANSLATED AS JUDGE, IS MUCH MORE INCLUSIVE THAN THE MODERN CONCEPT OF JUDGING AND ENCOMPASSES ALL THE FACETS AND FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT: EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE, AND JUDICIAL. CONSEQUENTLY, THIS TERM CAN BE UNDERSTOOD IN ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS. IT COULD DESIGNATE, IN ITS BROADEST SENSE, TO FUNCTION AS **RULER OR GOVERNOR**...IN A JUDICIAL SENSE, THE WORD COULD ALSO INDICATE, BECAUSE OF THE EXALTED STATUS OF THE RULER, THE **ARBITRATION OF CIVIL, DOMESTIC, AND RELIGIOUS DISPUTES**. (DEUT. 25:1)...IN THE EXECUTIVE SENSE, IT COULD DENOTE TO **EXECUTE JUDGMENT**, TO BRING ABOUT WHAT HAD BEEN DECIDED. THIS COULD BE IN THE FORM OF A VINDICATION (PS. 10:18; ISA. 1:17, 23); OR A CONDEMNATION AND PUNISHMENT (EZEK. 7:3, 8; 23:45)

BAKER, W., & CARPENTER, E. E (2003). THE COMPLETE WORD STUDY DICTIONARY: OLD TESTAMENT (P. 1186). CHATTANOOGA, TN: AMG PUBLISHERS.

In the Judges Stage, your role is defined by the Hebrew verb **shaphat** or **shophetim** (plural, husband and wife), which means to judge or govern.

Have any of you ever watched a judge work?

Judges are not responsible for writing the law, it's already written. Judges are responsible for discerning how the law applies in each case, weighing evidence righteously without bias or favoritism, and then rendering a verdict that aligns with God's standard. And they must get up each day and put on that robe and do it with consistency and without becoming callous or bitter.

You are charged by God to rightly discern and govern your home. This requires you to move past surface-level observations and maintain a "keen eye" and a prophetic voice, leading your child exactly where they need to go during a time of significant transition

As the "flesh comes into full effect" through hormones and physical development, you are the one who helps them manage their thoughts, emotions, and the crazy nature of their changing physiology.

You are responsible for executing judgment, which means bringing about the decisions and standards already outlined in God's Word. Rather than turning a blind eye, you must use prophetic insight to address the root of your child's behavior, ensuring they learn to manage their fleshly nature under the authority of the Word.

Lastly, being a *shophtim* means you do not accept "bribes" or make judgments made for your own convenience, but instead provide the right judgment from the heavens to ensure they reach spiritual maturity.

### **BEN**

In the Judges stage, the application of God's Word in a child's life must move into full force. This is a critical period where parents use the Word on a practical level to help children manage "crazy emotions" and internal confusion. By teaching them that the Word is the solution for governing feelings like anger, fear, and heartbreak, parents ensure their children are not a disaster when they reach adulthood.

Remember, emotions are good servants but terrible masters and we must speak directly to their heart about this and demonstrate the fruit of applying the word to their soul.

We must say, that hormones are never an excuse for sinful behavior! Instead, these changes reveal the true condition of their heart. You can help them by showing that God's Word and the Spirit provide the power to give them the self-discipline over their thoughts and emotions.

Comparative thinking is huge in this stage. The cure to this is solidifying their identity in Christ. Failing to do this can lead to a lifetime of struggle with a worldly or negative self-image. The goal is for them to move into the Kings stage with an ingrained knowledge of who they are in Christ.

When the Judges stage is handled correctly, building upon the foundations of the Moses and Joshua stages, the result is exponential spiritual growth. The ultimate

reward for us is seeing a young adult who is serious about their walk with the Lord and ready for the responsibilities of the Kings stage.

Let's move to Deuteronomy 7:

### JODY

#### o Deuteronomy 7:1–6 (NIV)

1 When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—2 and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then **you must destroy** them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy. 3 Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, 4 for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you. 5 This is what you are to do to them: **Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire.** 6 For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

### NICK

In Deuteronomy 7, parents are called to be like Moses and help incline the hearts of their children. This scripture commanded Israel to possess the land by driving out seven nations larger and stronger than themselves, with a mandate to destroy them totally and show no mercy!

This means:

- **Refusing treaties with sin...**parents and children must not make compromises with sin.
- **Breaking down altars of idolatry.** Parents and children are to work together to identify and break down idols of idolatry. In this stage, idolatry often manifest as a constant me-focus, where the child's world revolves entirely around their own feelings, thoughts and desires.
- **The goal is total destruction.** There are no half-measures. Go after the root issue so they do not turn away from following the Lord.

- Don't forget that in this passage, the LORD tells them that they are **holy, chosen and treasured!** This is God affirming their identity during this time. And this is the very reason that they cannot tolerate the presence of idols or sin in their hearts.

By the conclusion of Deuteronomy, the practical side of parenting is clearly defined:

### LYNDIE

- o **Deuteronomy 31:9–13 (NIV)**

9 So Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the Levitical priests, who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel. 10 Then Moses commanded them: “At the end of every seven years, in the year for canceling debts, during the Festival of Tabernacles, 11 when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose, you shall read this law before them in their hearing. 12 Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. 13 **Their children**, who do not know this law, **must hear it and learn to fear the LORD your God** as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

### NICK

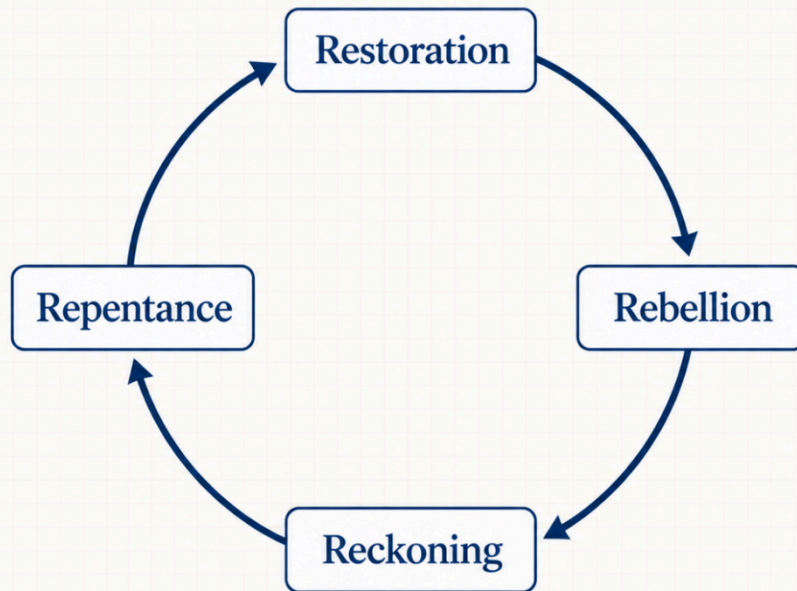
Here in Deut 31, they are transitioning from Moses to Joshua, and Moses empowered and challenged the priesthood to ensure that every man, woman, and child heard and learned to fear the Lord in every aspect of their lives. This process of learning the fear of the Lord is not a one-time event, it is an ongoing foundation that you must continually return to and build upon throughout every parenting stage.

The health of the nation of Israel and your family depends on you receiving the instructions of God and successfully transmitting them to your children.

### PETER

Now, as you transition from the Joshua stage into the Judges Stage, the stage is built on the understanding that God ordained the role of a "judge" for a specific purpose: to govern through a cycle aimed at restoration.

## The Cycle of the Judges



Everybody turn to Judges 2, because we will be in this chapter to go through all of the cycles of the Judges.

### JOY

- o **Judges 2:10 (NIV)**

10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.

### PETER

This verse notes that after one generation passed, another arose that "knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel". To apply this to parenting, you can replace the word "generation" with "stage": once the Joshua stage concludes, your child enters a phase where they do not yet personally know the Lord or His works in their own lives.

Up to this point, your children have learned about God through your stories and experiences. However, they lack **yada**—a deep, personal, and experiential knowledge of the Lord. They have heard the truth, but they have not yet lived it for themselves.

The scripture also says they did not know the **works** (ma'asah) God had done. This means they haven't yet seen God's power and **accomplishments** (asah) directly in their own lives.

This lack of personal experience explains why children often move from a state of restoration into rebellion. Because they lack their own experiential history with God, they use their increasing freedom for sin or wander off the path to see what happens.

As a parent, your role in the Judges stage is to lead them through these freedoms rather than clamping down on them. By allowing them the freedom to make choices—and even mistakes—you create the necessary environment for them to encounter God personally. The ultimate goal of this stage is to move the child from relying on your faith to developing their own experiential relationship with the Lord, where He becomes their God through their own trials and victories.

**BEN**

Now let's move to **Rebellion** in Judges 2:11-13

**JODY**

- o **Judges 2:11–13 (NIV)**

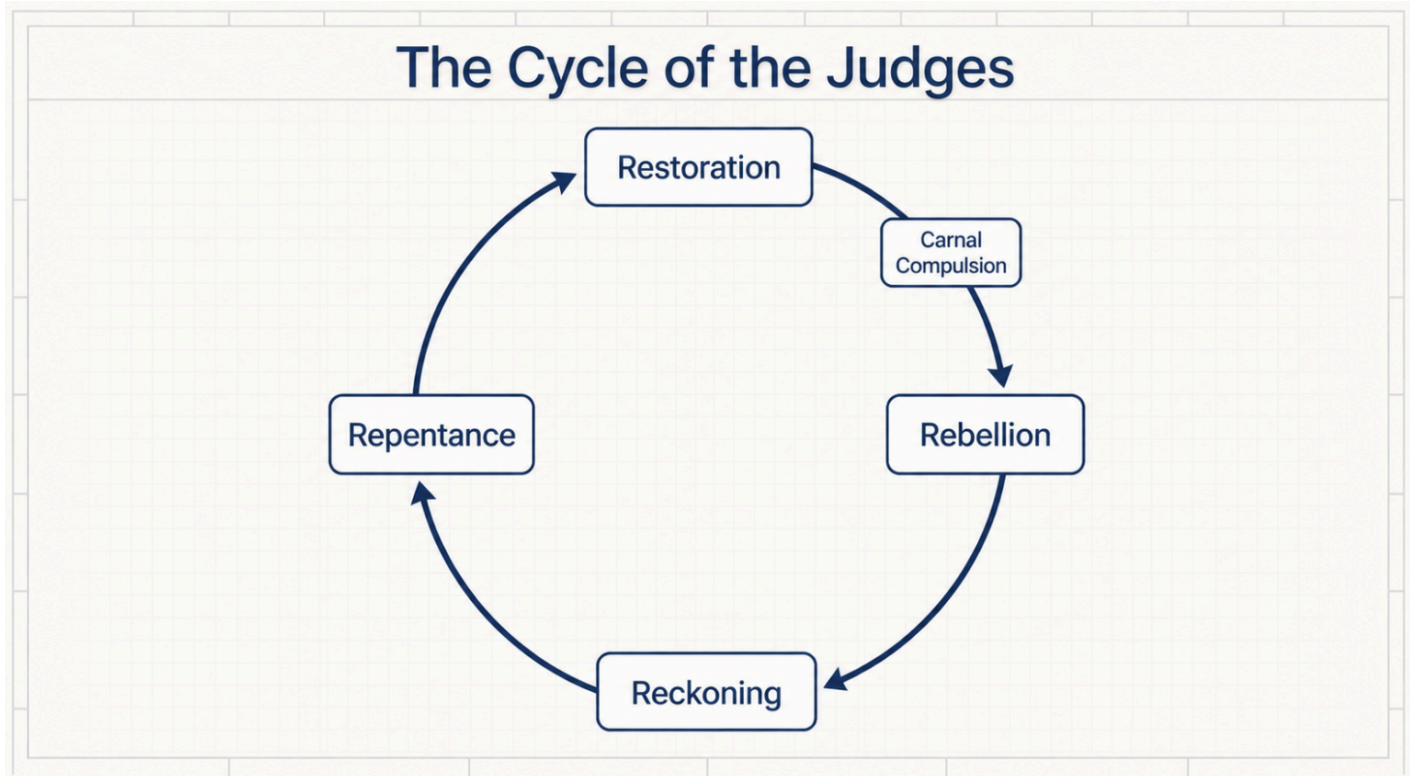
11 Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. 12 They forsook the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the LORD's anger 13 because they **forsook him** and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.

**BEN**

These verses recount how the Israelites did evil, served the Baals, and forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors. For you this "forsaking" is a model for understanding the moments when your son or daughter appears to abandon everything they have been taught.

To "forsake" in this context literally means to abandon. You may feel a sense of failure, thinking, "I taught them better than that," as your child seems to cast aside years of instruction in favor of their own desires or the influences of the "peoples around them".

Let us go back to the cycle of the judges on the screen and we're going to add something to it.

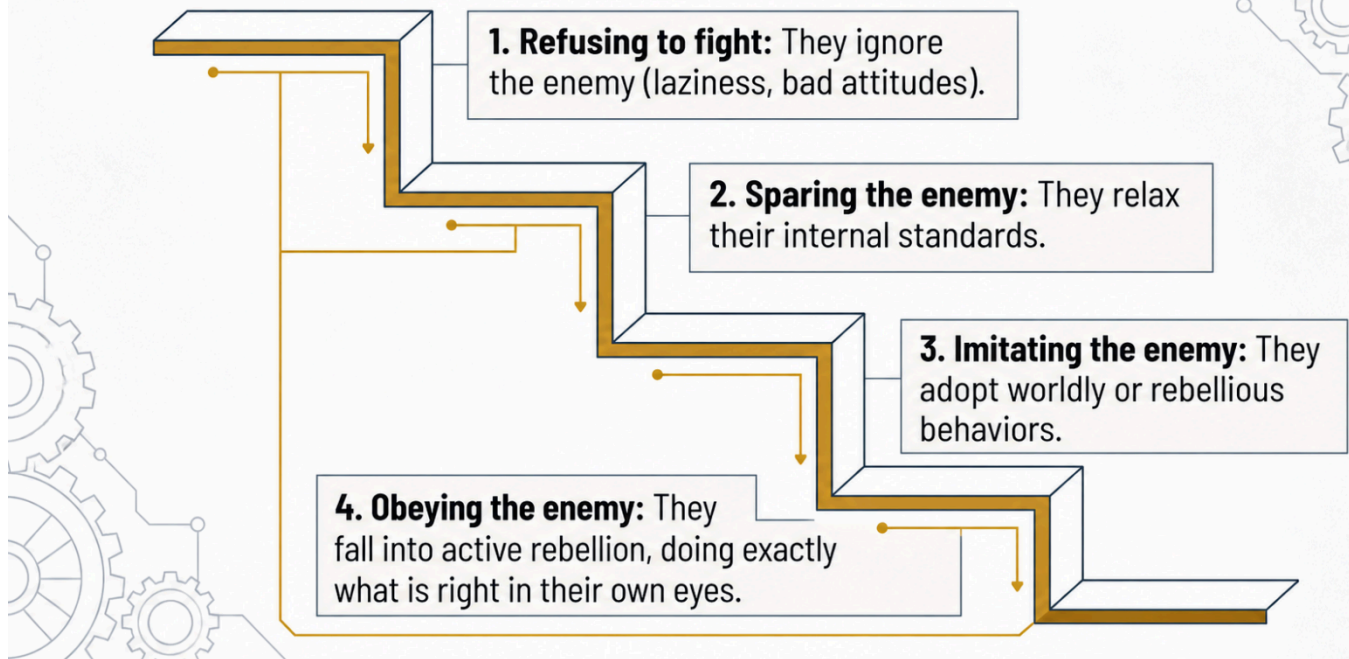


So now we're going to link the stages for you. In between restoration and rebellion is just carnal compulsion.

These are progressive steps of carnal compulsion:

**(DO NOT READ)**

# Progressive Steps of Carnal Compulsion



1. This is when they start to refuse to fight the enemy. This can look like laziness and bad attitudes.
2. Then they then spare the enemy in their life. They relax their internal standards and convictions.
3. Then they begin to imitate the enemy. Sometimes the enemy is someone else. Sometimes the enemy is their own thoughts and they begin to imitate that.
4. Then ultimately they even obey the enemy.

In this stage, there is a gradual drift from restoration into a period of carnal compulsion. At first, everything feels fine—there's no immediate sense of danger. Because of that, standards begin to relax, and small compromises are made. Over time, those compromises gain momentum, pulling them toward open rebellion and a life increasingly controlled by sin.

This is how carnal compulsion works—it quietly leads them step by step into full rebellion, where sin or idolatry takes root. For an 11 to 14ish-year-old, idolatry may not look obvious, but it often shows up as living by their own standards—each one doing what is right in their own eyes.

**NICK**

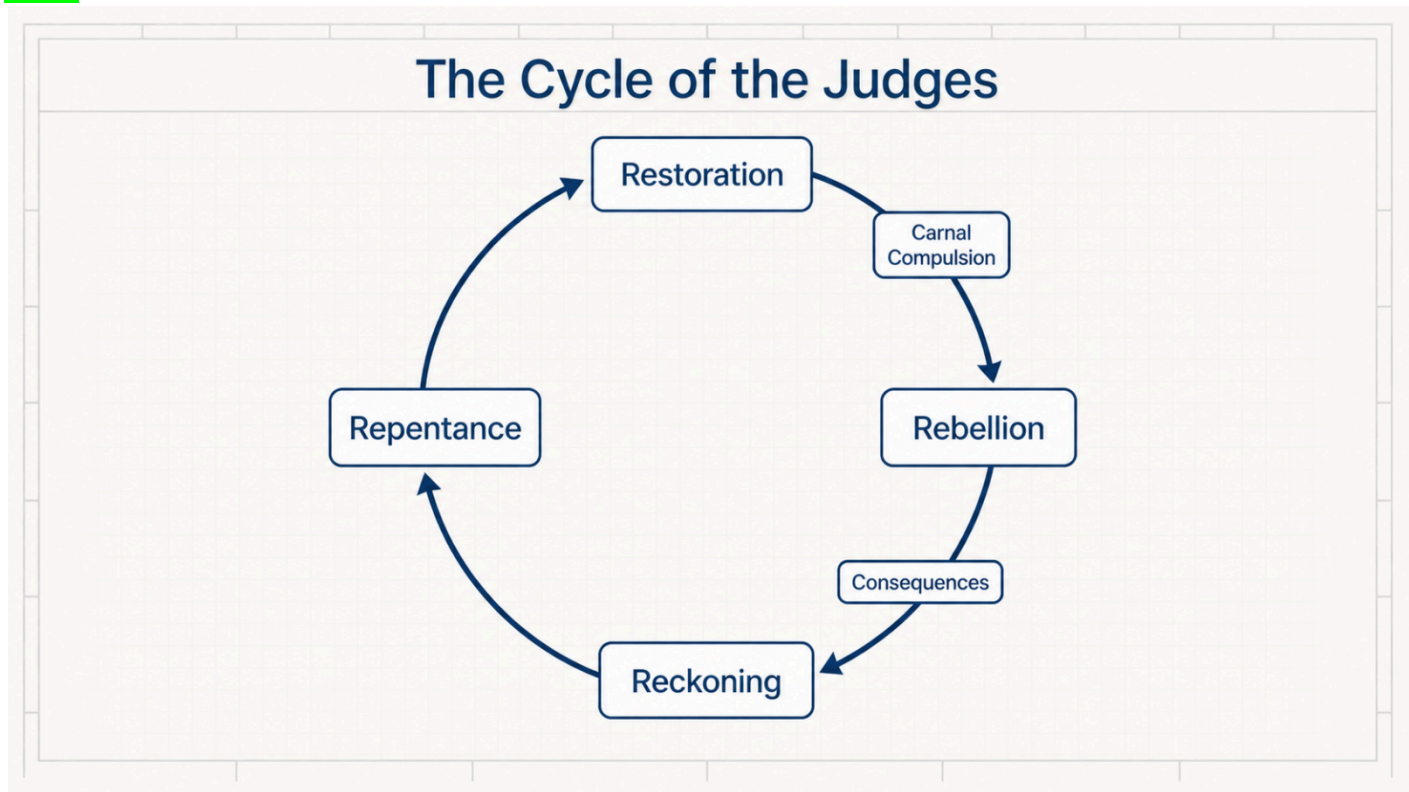
**RECKONING**

**LYNDIE**

- o **Judges 2:14-15 (NIV)**

14 In his anger against Israel the Lord **handed them over** to raiders who plundered them. He **sold them** to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. 15 Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the Lord was **against them to defeat them**, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress.

**NICK**



In Judges 2, the Lord handed Israel over to their enemies to bring them to a point of distress. In the same way, parents must allow their children to experience the full weight of the consequences of their fleshly choices to drive them toward repentance.

The goal of this stage is not merely punishment, but a reckoning that brings internal rebellion to the surface.

You will often feel a natural sympathy to lessen the burden of consequences, but doing so circumvents the journey to true repentance and restoration. You must allow the weight to do its work on their heart. If you get in the way, you will hinder their progression toward repentance.

Rather than a quick spank and move on approach, a right judge will allow the child to sit in the discomfort of their own behavior.

You must have the confidence that God is faithful to bring hidden sin to the light. Even if a child attempts to hide behind generalities or partial truths, their fleshly behavior will eventually show itself again...sometimes within minutes...making the heart issue impossible to ignore.

You will also notice that a child in the Judges stage will often try to solve their internal struggles in secret, hoping to defeat their flesh without a judge (savior) helping them. God will not allow this. The distress will continue to grow until they realize they cannot save themselves and need deliverance.

To navigate this stage effectively, you must move beyond face-value observations. You can even start with the assumption that they are hiding something. This is not out of malice, but because it is the natural inclination of their heart. Pray for the right judgment from God. Pray that God you would give you prophetic insight to see past their behavior to get to the root of the spiritual issues that need to be addressed.

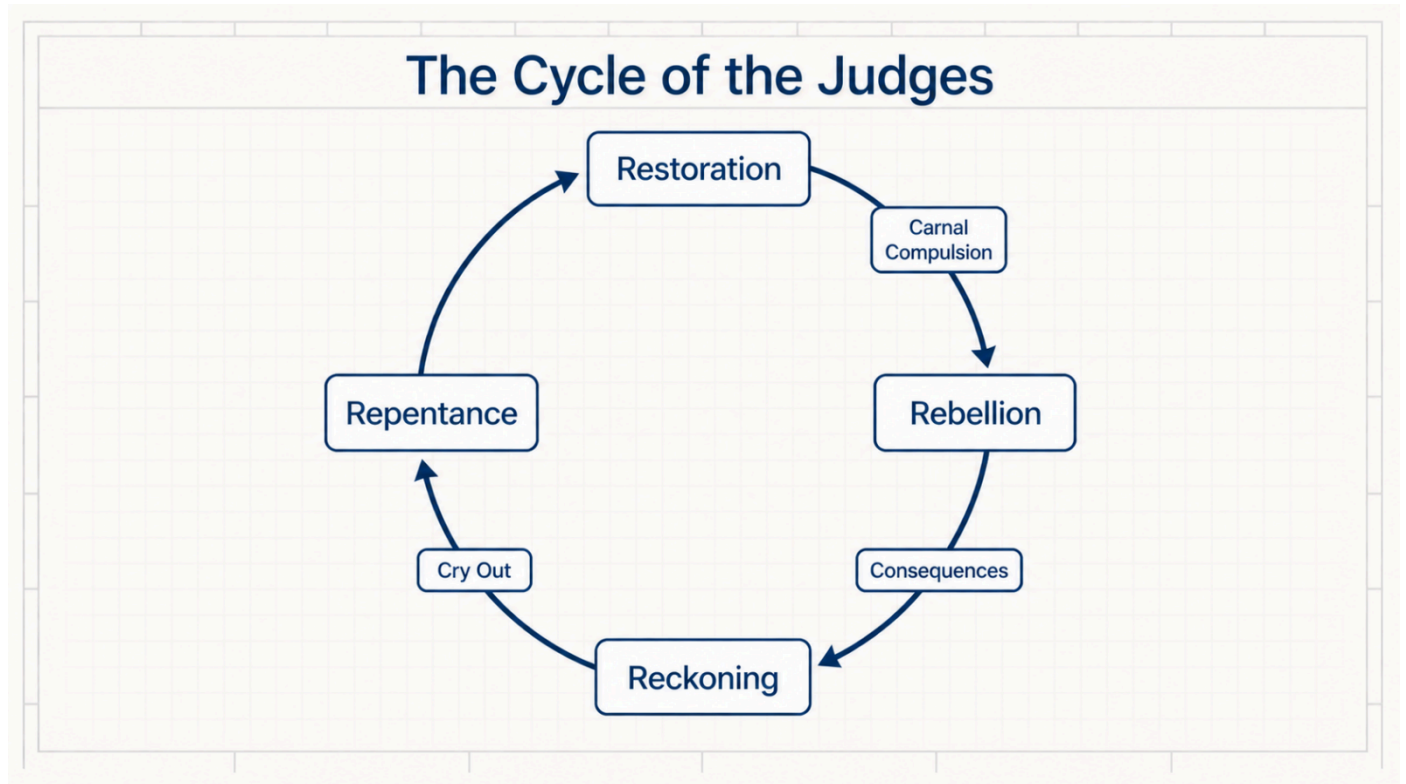
**PETER**

**REPENTANCE**

**JOY**

- o **Judges 2:18 (NIV)**

- 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.

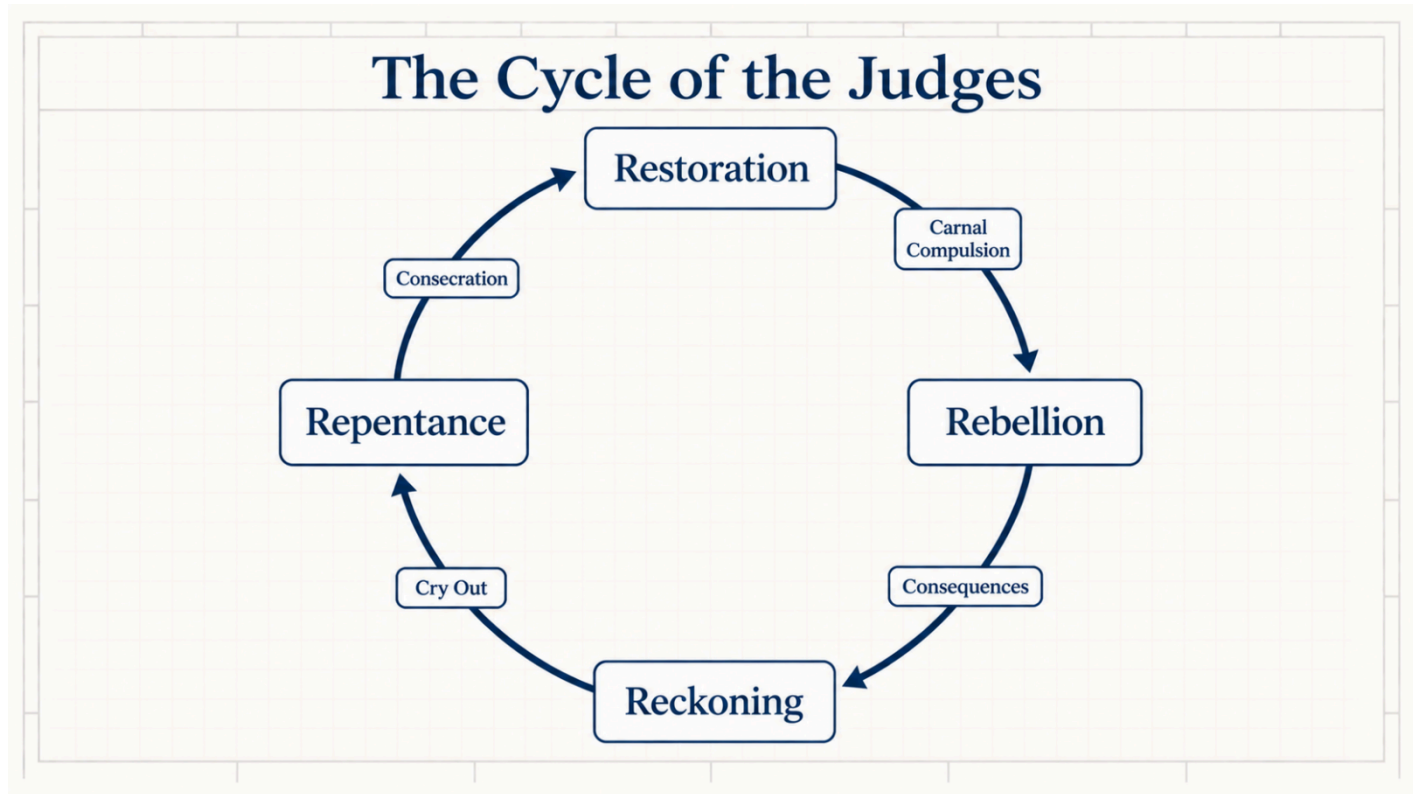


### **PETER**

Based on Judges 2:18, God was with the judges to save Israel from their enemies. He is with you as you serve as the "judge" in your child's life during the Judges stage. Your presence and leadership in this stage are the God-ordained means of bringing salvation and deliverance to your child, helping them escape the slavery of their own sins.

This is why you must allow the full weight of consequences to rest on them. The weight is meant to bring the child to a point of "great distress" where they realize they cannot defeat their fleshly nature on their own. This pressure causes them to cry out, a groaning that serves as the necessary catalyst for **genuine repentance**.

As the judge you are responsible for driving the child through this cycle, from rebellion to reckoning and eventually to crying out. It is only through this process that God relents and brings the child back into a state of restoration and right standing.



## **BEN**

### **RESTORATION**

The ultimate goal is restoration and when a child cries out and is saved by the parent-judge it brings them to a place of consecration. Consecration occurs when they become fully aware of their spiritual condition and recognizes their need for a savior to bring them back to a place of shalom. At this point, the child is "set apart" and ready to be used for God's work once again.

When restoration is achieved, they are "firing on all cylinders". There is a tangible sense of peace with the Lord and the family. They are no longer enslaved to nabal traits or the flesh that previously controlled them, and they return to getting along with others and sharing the Word.

- Testimony of a time when Judges children began "firing on all cylinders" after restoration
  - Slaughter
  - Hefner
  - Morrison

Restoration means returning the child to the same state where the cycle began: **freedom with limited restrictions**. This will be a test of your faith as a parent.

A common mistake for parents is to become "faithless" after a difficult cycle. Out of a desire to avoid future rebellion, you may feel tempted to clamp down and revert to the Moses stage of heavy restriction. However, you must remain faith-filled, understanding that the purpose of restoration is to grant them the freedom necessary to see what else is in their heart and for them to fully have autonomy in the Kings stage.

Let's read Judges 2:19 for the last verse we will read from this chapter:

#### **JODY**

- o **Judges 2:18 (NIV)** But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

#### **NICK**

You will often face the frustrating reality described in this verse. As soon as the influence of the "judge" was removed, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than before. These are moments when you finally achieve a state of shalom and restoration only to see the same fleshly behavior resurface...and it could be within minutes...

You must realize that this is an inevitable part of this stage. That is why we call it the Judges Cycle! Just as Israel cycled through rebellion for 400 years, your child will cycle through these internal battles as they learn to battle their own fleshly nature.

**This is why we want you to know this so that you don't become discouraged.** By studying how God parented Israel through the book of Judges, you learn to remain consistent. This stage is designed to move the child from a superficial compliance to a deep, experiential relationship with God. The better you understand the Cycle of the Judges, the more you can parent with the same consistency and intent that God showed his people.

#### **LYNDIE**

- o **Judges 3:1–2 (NIV)**

1 These are the nations the LORD left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan 2 (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites **who had not had previous battle experience**):

### NICK

The Lord left certain nations to test the Israelites and to **teach warfare** to those without battle experience! Your kids do not have battle experience! The Judges stage is the battlefield within the home. This stage is essential because your children have not yet faced their own battles, and they must learn to fight them while still under your protective leadership.

### PETER

Let's read verses three and four.

### JOY

#### o Judges 3:3–4 (NIV)

3 the five rulers of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in the Lebanon mountains from Mount Baal Hermon to Lebo Hamath. 4 They were left to test the Israelites to see whether they would obey the LORD's commands, which he had given their ancestors through Moses.

### PETER

As your child enters the Judges stage, you begin some of the **most vital pastoral work** of your parenting life. This phase requires you to activate your **prophetic ear** to listen to the Holy Spirit's promptings regarding your child. **If you feel an "inkling" that something isn't right—even if your child is going to a "godly" place or behaving well on the surface—you have the God-given right and responsibility to act on that feeling.**

You do not need a lengthy explanation or undeniable evidence to lead your home. Because God has placed you as the Judge and priest, you must presume that the Lord is leading your intuition. When you say "no" simply because you "don't feel right about it," you are exercising a judicial authority that brings your family to new heights.

A significant obstacle in this stage is parenting out of fear or convenience. Biblical judges were forbidden from accepting bribes, and as a parent-judge, you must not accept "bribes" of comfort. Do not make decisions based on:

- Avoiding a child's bad attitude.

- **Avoiding the personal burden of enforcing a consequence.**
- Seeking your own ease over the child's spiritual discipline.

A bribe is anything that benefits you as a result of your judgment. So if you are making judgments that are based on benefiting you, then you're not making right judgments.

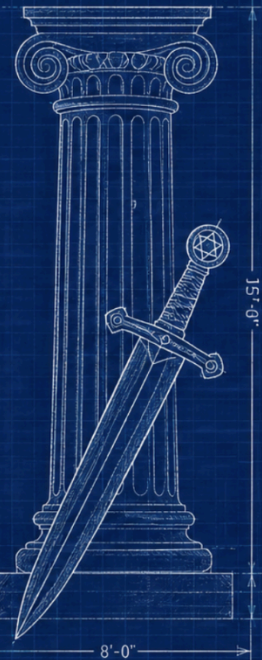
True prophetic parenting is characterized by a bold confidence. It is the difference between being "faithless" (worrying about what might happen) and knowing what God is saying in the moment. By refusing to ignore the "Holy Spirit moments" when looking into your child's eyes, you provide the righteous judgment necessary to deliver them from the "slavery" of their own carnal nature.

## **BEN**

**What the function of a judge is, is that they are designed to break cycles.** They will be with the children through every cycle, but the end goal is to get to a point where they are breaking cycles and here's the evidence of it. As you go through the book of judges, God sends more than just one judge to help them. He sends a judge that is appropriate for every single cycle that Israel goes through, so we want to go through just a list in a rapid fashion and show you these names and how they function as a judge that led to the breaking of the cycles.

# JUDGES STAGE: AGES 11-14

- ⊕ **OTHNIEL:** BE A LION
- ⊕ **EHUD:** WEAKNESS TURNED TO STRENGTH
- ⊕ **SHAMGAR:** FIGHT WITH WHAT YOU HAVE
- ⊕ **DEBORAH:** DEPENDENCY ON THE SPIRIT
- ⊕ **GIDEON:** COWARD'S CONVERSION INTO CONQUEROR
- ⊕ **ABIMELECH:** DEFEAT SELFISH AMBITION AT ALL COST



**NICK**

# JUDGES STAGE: AGES 11-14

- ⊕ **TOLA:** REPENTANCE IS EVERYTHING
- ⊕ **JAIR:** THE WORD ENLIGHTENS AND BRINGS WEALTH & INFLUENCE
- ⊕ **JEPHTHAH:** SPIRIT FILLED AND NOT STUPID
- ⊕ **IBZAN, ELON, ABDON:** MUST HAVE A GENERATIONAL MINDSET
- ⊕ **SAMSON:** CONSEQUENCES ARE OUR GREATEST HOPE

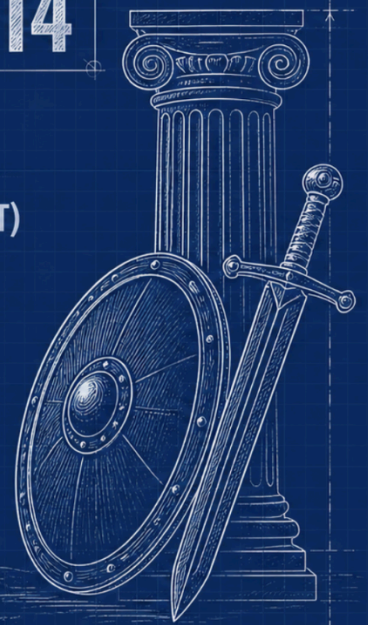


**BONUS:** THE RIGHT FIGHT IS ALWAYS WORTH FIGHTING



# JUDGES STAGE: AGES 11-14

- ⊕ MORE FREEDOM THAN RESTRICTION
- ⊕ WARN THEIR SOULS (WITH THEIR FLESH IN FULL EFFECT)
- ⊕ CHARACTERIZED BY NOT ELIMINATING CONSEQUENCE FROM CHOICES MADE
- ⊕ MORE INTERNAL THAN EXTERNAL
- ⊕ ALLOWING THEM TO EAT THE FRUIT OF THEIR LABOR



**PETER**

# JUDGES STAGE: AGES 11-14

## FOR PARENTS:

- ⊕ COVENANT & CYCLES
  - ⊕ BREAK THE CYCLE!
- ⊕ REPENTANCE IS EVERYTHING
- ⊕ IMPORTANCE OF CONSEQUENCE
- ⊕ RIGHT FIGHT IS ALWAYS WORTH IT



FOR KIDS:

# JUDGES STAGE: AGES 11-14

- REPEAT QUICKLY
- CONSEQUENCES ARE YOUR ALLY
- SPIRIT FILLED & WORD DRIVEN
- FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT THING

