

Breaking the cycle

kingdom lessons from the book of Judges



The book of Judges records the revivals God brought to the people of Israel and how they turned away from Him.

Judges 2v10 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. 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. 14 In his anger against Israel the Lord gave them into the hands of raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of 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. 16 Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders.

Six revival formulae: 3v7-9, 3v12-15, 4v1-3, 6v1-7, 10v6-10, 13v1-5

- i) The people turn away from the Lord
- ii) The land is invaded
- iii) The people cry out to God
- iv) God raises up a Judge to deliver the Israelite
- v) Land at peace until judge dies

STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK

12 Judges - 6 Major, 6 Minor (one anti-judge - Abimelech)

INTRODUCTION 1v1 - 3v4 Partial conquest of Land.
God is with them 1v4, v19, v22

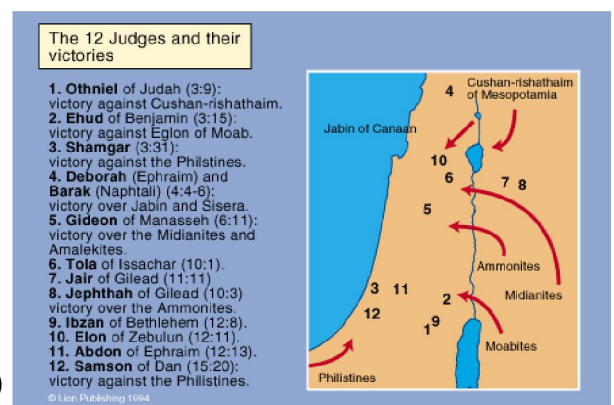
CONCLUSION Chap 17-21 a) Idolatry Ch 17-18
b) Immorality Ch 19-21



NB No view of Kingdom 17v6, 18v1, 19v1, 21v25

"There was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes"

1. **OTHNIEL** 3v7-3v11 Land still unconquered
2. **EHUD** 3v12-3v11 God's people under attack
3. **DEBORAH** 4v1-5v31 Apathy and disunity
4. **GIDEON** 6v1-8v28 Worshipped spiritual experience 8v27
Man of supernatural experiences
Angel, fire from rock, voice of God, fleece and dew, dream & interpretation, deliverance
5. **JEPHTHAH** 11v1-12v15 Affected by spirit of another kingdom 11v30-31
6. **SAMSON** 13v1-16v31 One man show
Man of Spirit 13v25, 14v6, v19, 15v14 (not enough)



BE WARNED
 DISTURBING AND VIOLENT
 TRAGIC TALE
ISRAEL
 BECOMES
CANAANITE

17-21

JUDGES
 THE EMPLOYMENT OF
GOD'S SPIRIT
 ≠
 ENDORSEMENT
 OF HUMAN CONDUCT

JUDGES

ISRAEL'S TOTAL FAILURE

3-16

WORSE

BAD

GRAY

PRETTY GOOD

SO REMEMBER...
JOSHUA
 OBEY THE COMMANDS OF THE TORAH!
 PROMISED LAND
 1-2

CANAANITES
 CHILD SACRIFICE
 MURDER
 SIN
 PEACE
 BELIEVANCE
 OPPRESSION
 REPENTANCE

ISRAEL FAILS TO DRIVE OUT THE CANAANITES

59 OTHNIEL
36 EHUD
4-5 DEBORAH

6-7 GIDEON
 ONLY 300 MEN
 PHILISTINES
 FELLOW ISRAELITES

10-12 JEPHTHAH
 AMMONITES
 GOD DEMANDS THIS
 ISRAEL NO LONGER KNOWS THE CREATOR OF THEIR OWN GOD.

13-16 SAMSON
 #PROUDIOUS
 #VIOLENT
 #ARROGANT
 PHILISTINES

17-18
 LAISH
 DAN
 NICAH
 "IN THOSE DAYS ISRAEL HAD NO KING AND EVERYONE DID WHAT WAS RIGHT IN THEIR OWN EYES."
 19-21
 SEXUAL VIOLENCE
 VERY DISTURBING
 (AND THAT'S THE POINT...)
 CIVIL WAR

CORRUPTION OF ISRAEL'S JUDGES

CORRUPTION OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL