

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

Lessons from Judges

Glad to see you this morning church! Today we get back to our current sermon series...

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

In case some of you might not know, we are reading chronologically through the bible as a church this year. Our current sermon series is designed to complement the reading each week.

You'll have to ask some of those who have been here, but I think the reading and the sermon series have been rewarding. I certainly have enjoyed preaching the series, although I have been stretched a bit.

I'm thank that we took the two-week break to celebrate the Lords' Supper and Easter, which by the way, it was awesome to be together in person this year! But I'm excited to get back to our sermon series.

Today we are going to see what we can learn from the book of Judges. I know I'm back tracking a bit, but Samuel, Kings and Chronicles will give us the opportunity to catch up. Not to mention I've had a couple of requests to preach Judges by a few our children and students. And if they are that interested and excited it is worth back tracking!

In all honestly the book of **Judges is not for the faint of heart**. You get a front row seat and see firsthand what it looks like for a **nation to forget God and it's not pretty**.

Following the same pattern as before, let me give you a brief overview of the book and then we'll look a few lessons we can learn.

Here is **Chuck Swindoll's chart** of Judges (SEE LAST PAGE).

Did you catch the repeated cycle that defines the book? You have disobedience – discipline – repentance – deliverance.

Let me just add **two quick overarching thoughts** before we look at some specific lessons we learn from the book.

- ⇒ Although God disciplined His people for their disobedience, He **demonstrated His grace and loyalty toward** them in forgiving them and delivering them.
- ⇒ God uses **imperfect people sometimes** to accomplish His will. The list of judges in the book go from good to worse in character. This doesn't mean that God condones their behavior, He uses what He has to work with.

The **theme of the book is crucial** as well, it is given in the last verse of the book...

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

I hope you have a good overview of the book, now let's look a few lessons we learn from the book for us today.

1. The Priority of the Gospel for the Next Generation

Judges 2:10 (NKJV) — 10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.

The tragedy here is that the **previous generation didn't make a significant impact spiritually on the next.**

We are not told that they **know nothing about God and what He had done**, only that they didn't know firsthand or experientially. They may have heard about God and what He did for Israel, but they **didn't know Him personally.**

As a result, you can read through the rest of the book about the sin and rebellion that took place. Instead of the nation being a light pointing other nations to God, they **walked in darkness and became like the other nations.**

Church let this be a **warning to us**. We must take the **gospel to the next generation**. I was in a zoom meeting a few weeks ago with one of our denominational leaders who said that **we are losing the next generation** at an alarming rate. Yet a group of 2700 people were surveyed 43% of them said they came to faith prior to age 13.

Church we cannot ignore the next generation!

And let me add a word of caution to parents. While I am pro, make your kids come to church, we must make sure that their faith is personal. They cannot be saved on our coat tails!

We must take the gospel to the next generation.

2. The Discipline for Sin & Deliverance for Repentance

Judges 3:12–15 (NKJV) — 12 And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the Lord. 13 Then he gathered to himself the people of Ammon and Amalek, went and defeated Israel, and took possession of the City of Palms. 14 So the children of Israel served Eglon king of Moab eighteen years. 15 But when the children of Israel cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for them: Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a left-handed man. By him the children of Israel sent tribute to Eglon king of Moab.

The cycle of sin, discipline, repentance and deliverance is repeated over and over again in the book. The people just couldn't stay on **the straight and narrow**.

We learn from this cycle the **effect of sin on a society**. Sin always brings a blight on a society. When a society is infected with sinful behavior it impacts **everyone and everything...economics, education, faith, politics, justice...and the list could go on and on**.

As a result of their sin, the people were taken into bondage. Why?

Hebrews 12:6 (NKJV) — 6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens and scourges every son whom He receives."

I said it before and I'll say it again, **the Lord still pulls the peach limb**. He does discipline His children when they fall into sin. There are **consequences to sin**, and like the those in Judges we have forgotten this truth.

The **church is filled with sinful behavior** and we are making less and less of impact today because we have **tolerated in sin**. We expect to receive the blessings of God and **yet how can He bless our mess**.

There is only one way...**repentance!** That's a word we have watered down...we would rather call it rededication but there is no such thing in the bible. We must repent but oh, **the beauty of repentance**.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) – 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

When God's people repent, He forgives!

In Judges, what see we in this **cycle is God's grace**. His grace given to a people who **didn't seek it, didn't deserve it and who didn't appreciation it** once they got it.

Let's not repeat the same cycle in our lives.
Let's take the gospel to the next generation and...

3. The Detriment of Man's Ways, Joshua 21:25

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

Why did things go so wrong for Israel? Because **“every did what was right in his own eyes.”**

When you throw out God, you throw out the **standard of morality and right**. Then you can **live according to your own standards**. You can see why our **society is shambles** can't you?

Everyone is living under his **own standards of morality**. You hear it all the time...**what is right for you might not be what is right for me**.

Without a standard everything is **relative and based on personal choices** and experiences.

Unfortunately, **even the church has been plagued** by this line of thinking. When we **select what we will or will not obey** from the bible we have in essence decided what is “right in our own eyes.”

In these modern days the **church has caved to societal pressures** and as a result have **watered down the gospel**. Perhaps that is why more and more churches **offer entertainment at the services than biblical truth**.

I’m not trying to be **critical but honest**. The **standard of morality is God** not man.

Lastly, we see...

4. The Need for a King, Joshua 21:25

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

The book ends with a **stark reminder of the nation’s reject of God** as their King. Israel was supposed to live under a **theocracy** and God was their King! But they didn’t know their King and therefore rejected Him.

But the ending also points us forward toward **Ruth and 1 Samuel** where God will raise up a **godly king, David**, to rule over his people. Once again showing **God’s grace and loyal love toward the nation**.

However, the book also ends by pointing **us toward Jesus, Our KING!**

The **cycle of humanity is like that of Israel, a downward spiral**. Men are **sinful and rebellious**. **Haters of God and self-willed**. Left to themselves they are **doomed for destruction**.

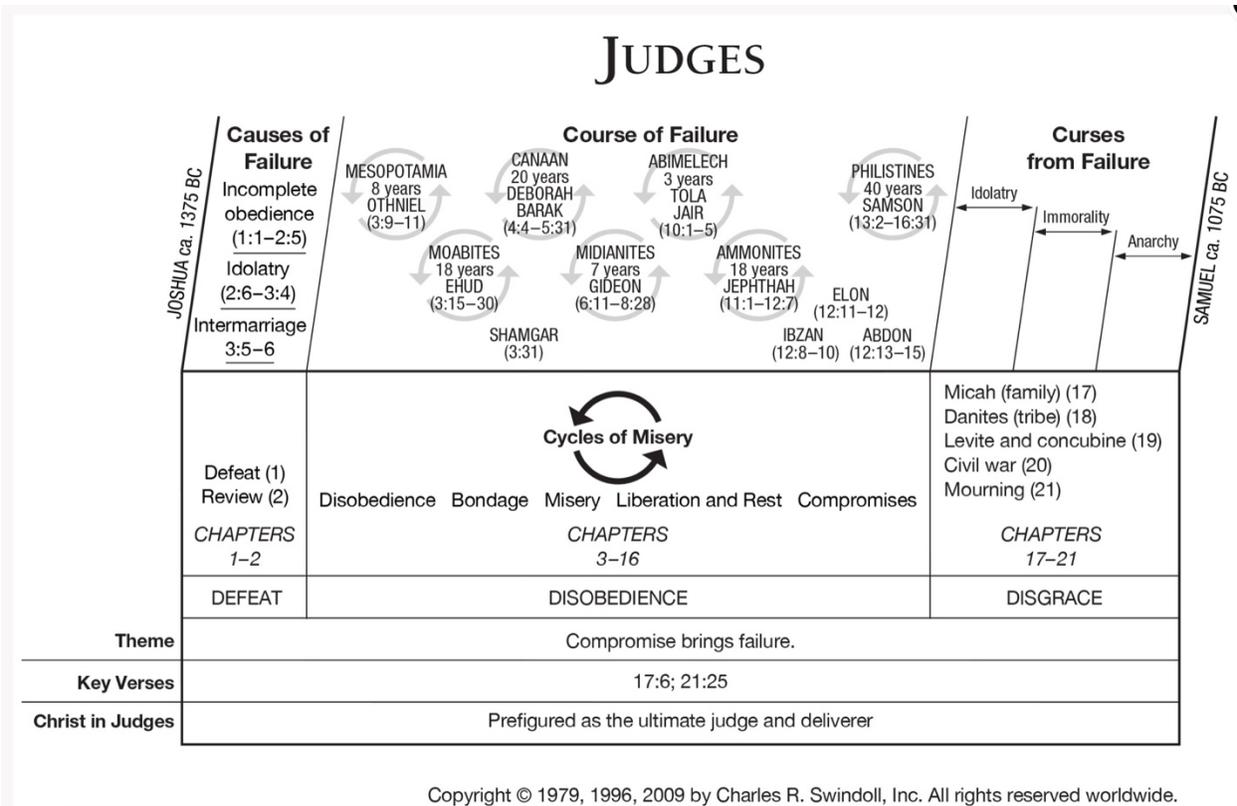
But God is still **rich in grace and love!** And He has provided a way for mankind to be redeemed from this sinful condition...He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for the sins of the world. And He says to all mankind...

John 3:16 (NKJV) – 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV) – 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Repent and received His saving grace today!

CHART:



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time period to rescue His people. The judges did not oversee merely legal matters, as in