

Judges Class 3: The Salvation of a Long-Suffering God (6:1-16:31)

OUTLINE¹

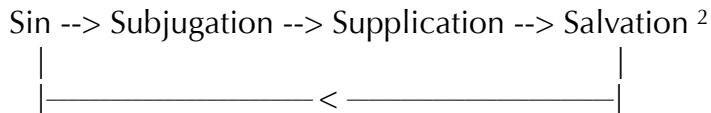
- Part I: The Failure of a Second Generation (1:1-3:6)
- Part II: The Salvation of a Long-Suffering God (3:7-16:31)
- Part III: The Confusion of a Depraved People (17-21)

MAIN PURPOSES OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES

1. *Display* God's covenant faithfulness to deliver his people despite their increasing conformity to the Canaanites.
2. *Demonstrate* the need for a righteous king who comes temporarily in David and eternally in Jesus Christ.

WERE THE PEOPLE SUPPOSED TO HAVE A KING?

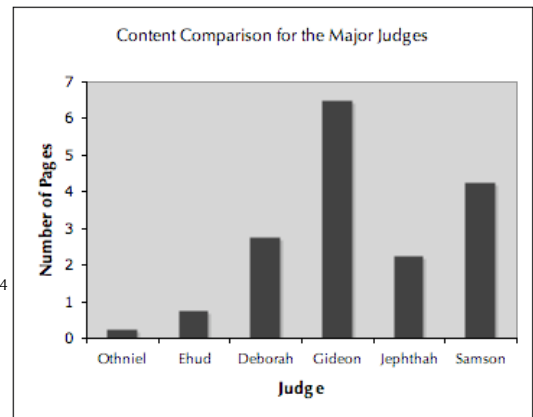
THE CYCLES OF THE JUDGES



THE SALVATION OF A LONG SUFFERING GOD...THROUGH GIDEON

Chiastic Structure³

- A. Intro I: Judah/Israel vs. Canaanite dismemberment: 1:1-2:5
- B. Intro II: Israel forsakes LORD for Baalim: 2:6-3:6
 - 1. Othniel: Israelite wife secret of his success 3:7-11
 - 2. Ehud: takes 'message' (v. 19) to foreign king slays Moabites at Jordan: 3:12-31
 - 3. Jael slays Sisera and ends war: 4:1-5:31
- X The personal story of flawed Gideon (6-8)**
 - 3'. A certain woman slays Abimelech and ends war: 9:1-56
 - 2'. Jephthah: sends messages to foreign king (cf. 11:28) slays Ephraimites at Jordan: 10:1-12:14
 - 1'. Samson's foreign women the secret of his downfall: 13:1-16:31
- B'. Epilogue I: Idolatry is rampant 17:1-18:31
- A'. Epilogue II: Israel/Judah vs. Benjaminites and dismemberment: 19:1-21:25



General Observations

- No period of rest at the end of this cycle.
- The paradigmatic cycle starts to break down as the people are degrading.
- There are more major flaws in the judges from here on out.

¹ DR Davis, *Judges: Such a Great Salvation*. Christian Focus Publications, 2003.

² Dr. V Philip Long's lecture on "Holy War" from his OT 230 class, Old Testament History, taught at Covenant Theological Seminary and available free on iTunesU.

³ B.G. Webb, *The Book of Judges: An Integrated Reading*. JSOTSup 46 (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1987). As quoted by BKW, Lecture 9-10, pg. 1 (As seen this was copied from Old Testament 2 Sovereign Grace Pastor's College class taught by Bruce Chick)

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Where has all the Judgment Gone?

The Call of Gideon: Humility or Fear?

Psalm 46:1 God is...a very present help in trouble.

The Tearing Down of the Baal Altar

Elijah in 1 Kings 18:27

And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened."

Gamaliel in Acts 5:38,39

38 "So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; 39 but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!"

Trusting or Testing? Should we lay out our own fleeces?

Gideon had already:

- 1) seen an angel of the Lord
- 2) seen a sign of the burned up meat and cakes
- 3) heard the voice of the Lord
- 4) completed a task from the Lord
- 5) been protected by the men of the city from his father (the very person whose altar of Baal Gideon destroyed!)
- 6) been clothed by the Spirit of Lord.

2 Timothy 3:16,17

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification

A Righteous Response? God is your King!

Problem: He acted like a king!

- He received a large portion of the spoil from the people and made an ephod out of it.
- He had a large harem.
- He named his concubine's son, Abimilech, which means 'my father is king'.

It seems as though Gideon wanted the *advantages* of being king without the *responsibility* of being king.

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Philippians 2:3-8

3 Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

As the Dust Settles...

My Father is King and Now that he's Dead, I Am.

THE SALVATION OF A LONG SUFFERING GOD...THROUGH JEPHTHAH

A Reluctant Hire

Did I Say That?!

Civil War

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THE SALVATION OF A LONG SUFFERING GOD...THROUGH SAMSON

Is He the 'ONE'?

NAZARITE VOW:

- NO Wine, strong drink, or anything from the vine
- NO cutting your hair
- NO contact with dead bodies

It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time...

Judges 14:3 "Get her for me, for she is right in my eyes."

Judges 14:7 ...she was right in Samson's eyes.

Judges 17:6, 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Proverbs 14:12, 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death

Proverbs 5:3-6

3 For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil,
4 but in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
sharp as a two-edged sword.
5 Her feet go down to death;
her steps follow the path to Sheol;
6 she does not ponder the path of life;
her ways wander, and she does not know it.

SUMMARY CONCERNING THE JUDGES