

Judges Class 2: The Salvation of a Long-Suffering God (3:7-10:57)

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.

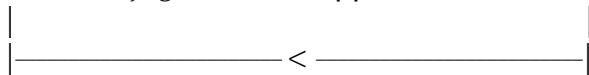
WHAT IS A JUDGE?

- Military Leader
- Spontaneously raised up by God to deliver God's people from an oppressor
- Endowed with God's Spirit
- NOT civil magistrates, kings, elected, primarily judicial (exceptions: Deborah, Samson)

THE CYCLES OF THE JUDGES

1. The children of Israel do **evil** in the eyes of the Lord (2:11; 3:7,12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1)
2. Although the nature of this evil is rarely spelled out, their sin prompts the **anger of God** and results in oppression at the hands of some foreign nation (2:14; 3:8; 4:2; 10:9). The nature of the evil Israel commits is summarized in 2:10-3:5 as idolatry and intermarriage. Because of their sin the Israelites not only are unable to expel the Canaanites, but they themselves **fall before foreign powers**.
3. During their **oppression**, the Israelites **cry out** to the Lord (3:9, 15; 6:6-7; 10:10).
4. The Lord hears their cry and raises up a **deliverer**, one of the judges (2:16; 3:9, 15; 10:1, 12).
5. It is often reported that this deliverance was followed by the **submission of the enemy** and a period of **peace** during which the deliverer judged Israel, followed in turn by the death and burial of the judge (3:10-11; 8:28-32; 10:2-5; 12:9-15).²

Sin --> Subjugation --> Supplication --> Salvation ³



Nehemiah 9:26-31

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

² Cycle quoted from RB Dillard and Longman T, *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, Zondervan, 1994, pgs 124-125. Emphasis added.

³ 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.

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

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

“The God of the Bible does not hold back in the wild blue yonder somewhere waiting for you to pour Clorox and spray Lysol over the affairs of your life before he will touch it...he is the God who delights to deliver his people even in their messes and likes to make them laugh again; he is the God who allows weeping to endure for a night but sees that joy comes in the morning.”⁴

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

“That God can make those eminently serviceable to his glory and his church’s good whose extraction, education, and employment, are very mean and obscure. He that has the residue of the Spirit could, when he pleased, make ploughmen judges and generals, and fisherman apostles. It is no matter how weak the weapon is if God direct and strengthen the arm. An ox-goad, when God pleases, shall do more than Goliath’s sword. And sometimes he chooses to work by such unlikely means, that the excellency of the power may appear to be of God.”⁵

“God strikes straight blows with crooked sticks.”

⁴ Davis, DR, *Judges: Such a Great Salvation*, pg 63

⁵ Henry, Matthew, *Commentary on the Whole Bible*, 6 vols. [New York: Revell, n.d.], vol2,p138.

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THE SALVATION OF A LONG SUFFERING GOD...THROUGH DEBORAH & BARAK & Jael

A Case of Gender Reversal?

The Faithful Deliverer is...Yahweh!

Chiastic Structure⁶

The sons of Israel (oppressed), 1-3

Deborah, the prophetess, 4-9

Barak and Sisera "call out", 10-12/13

Yahweh the Warrior, 14a

Barak and Sisera "go down", 14b/15-16

Jael, wife of Heber, 17-22

Jabin, king of Canaan (subdued), 23-24

2 Timothy 2:13

13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me

The Faithful Response to Our Faithful Deliverer is...Obedient Love

John 14:15,

If you love me, you will keep my commandments

1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us

Love *from* God leads to love *towards* God which will lead to *obedience* to his commands.

⁶ Davis, DR *Judges*, p71

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

Chiastic Structure⁷

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)

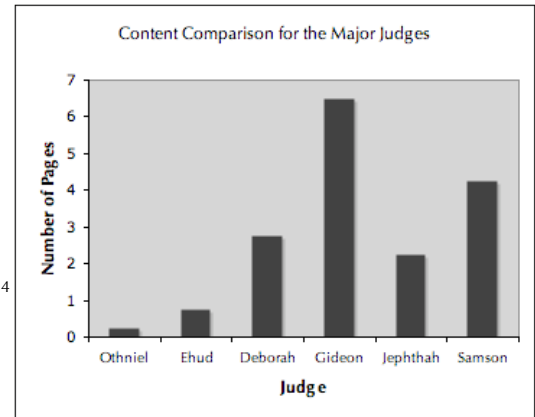
3'. A certain woman slays Abimelech and ends war: 9:1-56

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



⁷ 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)