

REAL HEROES FOR DARK DAYS

A STUDY OF JUDGES

#1: INTRODUCTION TO JUDGES

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I. WHY WE STUDY THE WHOLE BIBLE

Every Scripture passage is inspired by God. All of them are useful for teaching, pointing out errors, correcting people, and training them for a life that has God's approval. They equip God's servants so that they are completely prepared to do good things.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (GWT)

Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us. The Scriptures give us strength to go on. They cheer us up and give us hope.

Romans 15:4 (NIRV)

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NLT)

II. BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES

1. **Who wrote it?**

2. **When was it written?**

3. **Whom was it written to?**

4. **Why was it written?**

- **Forms of government:**

Democracy—People rule

Theocracy—God rules

Monarchy—King rules

Anarchy—Chaos rules

In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

Judges 21:25 (NLT)

At that time there was no king in Israel. People did whatever they felt like doing.

Judges 21:25 (MSG)

- **The Lord raised up leaders called “Judges”**

Then the LORD raised up judges to rescue the Israelites from their attackers.

Judges 2:16 (NLT)

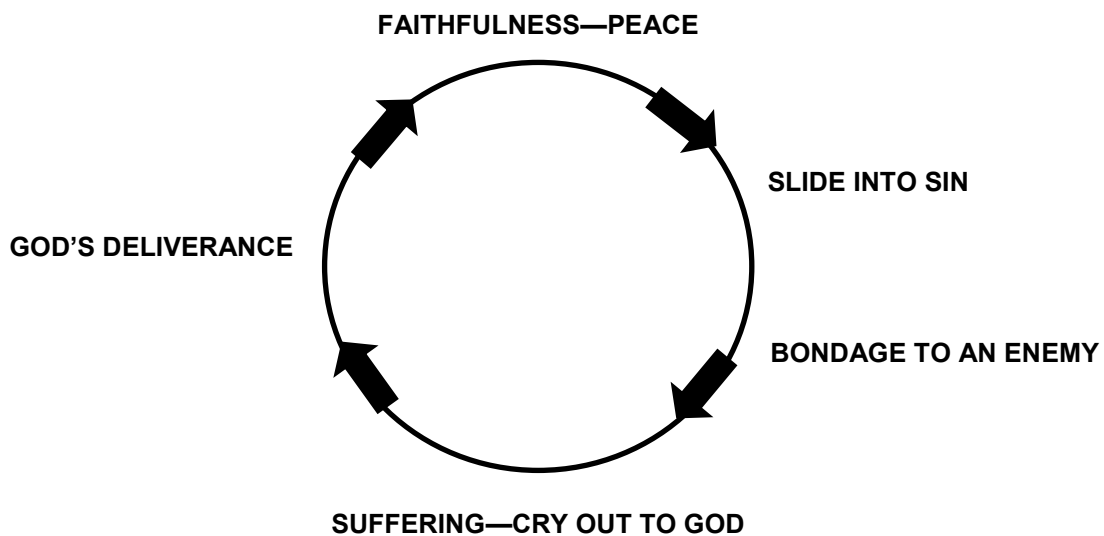
The book of Judges is primarily about the lives of 12 Judges (majors in all caps)

OTHENIEL	Jair
EHUD	JEPHTHAH
Shamgar	Ibzan
DEBORAH	Elon
GIDEON	Abdon
Tola	SAMSON

- **Themes of Judges:**

1) **Small compromises with sin always leads to big problems**

Israel’s Cycle of Destruction



2) God works through imperfect people to accomplish His perfect purposes

- **Key Scriptures:**

The Israelites did evil in the LORD's sight and served the images of Baal. They abandoned the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They went after other gods, worshiping the gods of the people around them. And they angered the LORD.

Judges 2:11-12 (NLT)

Whenever the LORD raised up a judge over Israel, he was with that judge and rescued the people from their enemies throughout the judge's lifetime. For the LORD took pity on his people, who were burdened by oppression and suffering. But when the judge died, the people returned to their corrupt ways, behaving worse than those who had lived before them. They went after other gods, serving and worshiping them. And they refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

Judges 2:18-19 (NLT)

III. THE ETHICAL QUESTION OF WAR

Two key considerations:

1. The moral condition of the enemy

2. The character of God

(See Genesis 15:12-16; Deuteronomy 7:1-6; 20:10-18)