



**“GREAT EVENTS OF THE BIBLE
#30 -- FROM JOSHUA TO THE
KINGS -- THE PERIOD OF THE
JUDGES”**

Introduction:

- A. A Brief Overview Of History:
 - 1. God used Moses to lead Israel from Egypt to just outside the Promised Land.
 - 2. Joshua led them into the land.
 - 3. After Joshua died, God used Judges as leaders of Israel.
 - 4. The Judges led the people from the time of Joshua to the introduction of kings as leaders in Israel.

- B. Author -- Samuel.
 - 1. These events occurred when there was no king in Israel. Ju. 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25
 - a. This is often seen as they had no moral and religious guide.
 - b. I suspect that it also refers to civil anarchy -- people just did what they wanted without fear of retribution!
 - 2. It was most likely written before David became the king and drove the Jebusites out of Jerusalem. Ju. 1:21; II Sa. 5
 - 3. Samuel died before the death of Saul. I Sa. 25:1; Saul died in I Sa. 28

- C. Outline:
 - 1. Ju. 1:1 - 3:6 Israel's decline after the death of Joshua.
 - 2. Ju. 3:7 - 16:31 Judges who called the people back to God after apostasy after apostasy.
 - 3. Ju. 17:1 - 21:25 -- Moral collapse of the nation.

- D. Joshua Left No Successor.
 - 1. The people served God all the days of Joshua. 2:7-9

2. However, there was no dynamic and godly leader to take his place!
3. What a STARK contrast -- in the days of Joshua with a STRONG leader, the people were obedient to God; in the days of the Judges, there was not a dynamic, strong leader; rebellion and idolatry were rampant!

E. A DRASTIC Mistake!

1. The Children of Judah drove out the Canaanites. Ju. 1:1-20
2. However:
 - a. The Benjamites did not drive out the Jebusites from Jerusalem; they cohabited Jerusalem Ju. 1:21
 - b. Manasseh did not drive out the people from their allotted land. Ju. 1:27
 - c. Ephraim did not do it either. Ju. 1:29
 - d. Zebulun did not also. Ju. 1:30
 - e. Asher did not. Ju. 1:31,32
 - f. Naphtali did not. Ju. 1:33
 - g. Dan struggled with the Amorites. Ju. 1:34-36

F. (Slide #2) The Consequences Of Not Driving Out The Canaanites:

1. The next generation had no such convictions as Joshua and their fathers!
2. (►) The next generation did not love God; they turned to idolatry! Ju. 2:10-15 “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. ¹¹Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; ¹²and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from *among* the gods of the people who *were* all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger. ¹³They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. ¹⁴And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. ¹⁵Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed.”
3. (►) Ju. 3:3-6 “*namely*, five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath. ⁴And they were *left, that He might* test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the LORD, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses. ⁵Thus the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁶And they took their

daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods.”

4. (▶) The book of Judges tells of the spiritual, moral, and political decay of Israel.
 5. (▶) The verses that plainly describe why Israel turned away from God and why they were in such an anarchic state are:
 - a. Ju. 17:6 “In those days *there was* no king in Israel; everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes.”
 - b. Ju. 18:1 “In those days *there was* no king in Israel.”
 - c. Ju. 19:1 “And it came to pass in those days, when *there was* no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite staying in the remote mountains of Ephraim. He took for himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah.”
 - d. Ju. 21:25 “In those days *there was* no king in Israel; everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes.”
- G. (Slide #3) God Then Gave Them Judges. “Judge” Means “Ruler,” “Deliverer,” “Guide,” And “Savior!” Ju. 2:16
- H. (Slide #4) The ROLES Of Judges:
1. (▶) Spiritually -- teach the people God’s Will; uphold God’s moral and ethical Truths; call upon people to be obedient to God!
 2. (▶) Judicially -- settle personal and trivial disputes.
 3. (▶) Militarily -- lead the army in time of war.
 4. (▶) Typically -- deliverers of the people from enemies; they were types of Christ, our Divine Deliverer!
- I. (Slide #5) The Cycle Of Sin And Redemption In Judges.
1. (Slide #6) This concept is vividly expressed in:
 - a. Ju. 2:11-19 “Then **the children of Israel did evil** in the sight of the LORD, and **served the Baals**; ¹²and they **forsook the LORD God** of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they **followed other gods** from *among* the gods of the people who *were* all around them, and they bowed down to them; and **they provoked the LORD to anger**. ¹³They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. ¹⁴And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So **He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies**. ¹⁵Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as

the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And **they were greatly distressed.** ¹⁶Nevertheless, **the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.** ¹⁷Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them. They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do so. ¹⁸And **when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge;** for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them. ¹⁹And it came to pass, **when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers,** by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way.”

- b. (►) Ju. 6:1-10 “Then the children of **Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years,** ²and the hand of **Midian prevailed against Israel.** Because of the Midianites, the children of **Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains.** ³So it was, **whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them.** ⁴Then they **would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth** as far as Gaza, and **leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey.** ⁵For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and **they would enter the land to destroy it.** ⁶So **Israel was greatly impoverished** because of the Midianites, and the children of **Israel cried out to the LORD.** ⁷And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD because of the Midianites, ⁸that **the LORD sent a prophet to the children of Israel,** who said to them, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage; ⁹and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰Also I said to you, ‘I *am* the LORD your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.’ But you have not obeyed My voice.” Then God sent Gideon to them; they had 40 years of rest!
- c. (►) Ju. 10:6-18 After Jair and Tola, “Then **the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him.** ⁷So **the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and into the hands of the people of**

Ammon. ⁸From that year **they harassed and oppressed the children of Israel for eighteen years**--all the children of Israel who *were* on the other side of the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, in Gilead. ⁹Moreover the people of Ammon crossed over the Jordan to fight against Judah also, against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim, so that **Israel was severely distressed.** ¹⁰**And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, ‘We have sinned against You, because we have both forsaken our God and served the Baals!’** ¹¹So the LORD said to the children of Israel, ‘*Did I not deliver you* from the Egyptians and from the Amorites and from the people of Ammon and from the Philistines?’ ¹²Also the Sidonians and Amalekites and Maonites oppressed you; and you cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hand. ¹³Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods. **Therefore I will deliver you no more.** ¹⁴**Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in your time of distress.’** ¹⁵And the children of Israel said to the LORD, ‘**We have sinned! Do to us whatever seems best to You; only deliver us this day, we pray.**’ ¹⁶So **they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD.** And His soul could no longer endure the misery of Israel. ¹⁷Then the people of Ammon gathered together and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled together and encamped in Mizpah. ¹⁸And the people, the leaders of Gilead, said to one another, ‘Who *is* the man who will begin the fight against the people of Ammon? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.’” This was when **Jephthah** became the Judge; **they had rest for 6 years!**

2. (Slide #7) 4 Step Cycle:
 - a. (▶) Sin -- (Relapse) this was a time of internal corruption.
 - b. (▶) Servitude -- (Retribution) -- they faced severe oppression from their enemies.
 - c. (▶) Sorrow -- (Repentance) the people repented and restored faithfulness and faithful worship.
 - d. (▶) Salvation -- (Rescue) -- the Judges as military champions threw off the oppression and bondage.

3. (Slide #8) 6 Step Cycle:
 - a. (▶) Sin
 - b. (▶) Servitude
 - c. (▶) Sorrow
 - d. (▶) Supplication
 - e. (▶) Savior
 - f. (▶) Steadfastness

4. And yet the cycle started all over again!
 - a. Oh, how quickly they forgot the Judges when they died!
 - b. Ju. 8:33-35 “So it was, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-Berith their god. ³⁴Thus the children of Israel did not remember the LORD their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side; ³⁵nor did they show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal (Gideon) in accordance with the good he had done for Israel.”

II. (Slide #9) Judges:

- A. **Othniel** -- 3:7-11; (Slide #10) he was Caleb’s nephew, 3:9; he was from the tribe of **Judah**; the people had **served the Mesopotamians for 8 years**, 3:8; after Othniel delivered them, **they had peace for 40 years**, 3:11.
- B. (Slide #11) **Ehud** -- (Slide #12) He was a left-handed **Benjamite** who killed Eglon, king of Moab with a sword that he had hidden when he came to pay taxes, 3:15-30. **Israel had been in slavery to Moab along with the Ammon and Amalek for 18 years**; after Ehud delivered them, **they had peace for 80 years**.
- C. (Slide #13) **Shamgar** -- (Slide #14) he was a **Benjamite**; he helped Israel become free from mistreatment at the hand of the Philistines; he killed 600 Philistine with an ox goad. 3:31
- D. (Slide #15) **Deborah (Barak)** -- (Slide #16) Deborah, of the tribe of **Ephraim**, judged the people between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim, 4:5. She advised Barak of God’s plans to destroy Jabin, the Canaanite 4:4-7. Barak took 10,000 men and destroyed the army of Jabin, 4:6,7. Jael drove a stake through the head of Sisera in her tent. 4:21. **Jabin mistreated Israel for 20 years**; after Deborah, **Israel had peace for 40 years**, 5:31.
- E. (Slide #17) **Gideon** -- (Slide #18) a wheat thresher at Ophrah of the tribe of **Manasseh**, 6:15, whom God used to deliver the people; 6:11-14. He used a fleece to test God; he asked for a sign -- a wet fleece surrounded by dry ground, then a dry fleece surrounded by dewy ground, 6:37-40; he destroyed his father’s idols; he was called Jerubbaal. He called for help from Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, 6:35. God had him to drastically diminish his army -- from 32,000 to only 10,000 -- all who were afraid were sent home; then from 10,000 to 300 -- those who got on their knees to drink were sent home; only those who cupped their hands and brought water to their mouths were kept -- there were only 300; he went to war with 300 soldiers. They had been **mistreated by the Midianites along with the Amalekites for 7 years**; after Gideon delivered them, **they had peace for 40 years**.

- F. (Slide #19) **Abimelech** -- (Slide #20) he was **one of 70 of Gideon's sons**; he was from the tribe of **Manasseh**; he longed to become a king; this wicked man **slew 68 of his brothers** (the youngest escaped) and became king. A woman dropped a milestone on his head from the tower at Thebez; he commanded his armor bearer to slay him so it could not be said that "a woman killed me!" 8:30; 9:1-4. He **ruled over the people for 3 years**.
- G. (Slide #21) **Tola** -- 10:1,2; (Slide #22) from the tribe of **Issachar**, he was the **judge for 23 years** at Shamir in the mountains of Ephraim.
- H. (Slide #23) **Jair** -- 10:3-5; (Slide #24) he was from the tribe of **Manasseh**; he **judged Israel for 22 years** in Gilead.
- I. (Slide #25) **Jephthah** -- (Slide #26) he was a Gileadite of the tribe of **Manasseh**, the son of a harlot; he was shrewd and skillful; he used clever speech to capture escaping soldiers; the men of Ephraim could not make the "sh" sound; he had them to try to say "Shibboleth;" when they could not, he knew they were Ephraimites and killed them, Ju. 12:1-6! He is mainly remembered for his vow - - whatever came out of his house upon his return from a victorious battle would be the Lord's. Of course, his daughter was the first one who met him upon his return. They had been **oppressed by Ammon for 18 years; they had rest for 6 years**. Ju. 11,12
- J. (Slide #27) **Ibzan** -- (Slide #28) from Bethlehem either in the tribe of **Judah** (or **Zebulun**). He **judged 7 years**.
- K. (Slide #29) **Elon** -- (Slide #30) he was from the tribe of **Zebulun**. He was a **judge for 10 years**.
- L. (Slide #31) **Abdon** -- (Slide #32) he was from the tribe of **Ephraim**.. He was a **judge for 8 years**.
- M. (Slide #33) **Samson** -- (Slide #34) he was the son of Manoah of the tribe of **Dan**; He was a strong Nazarite fighter, 13:24; God gave him supernatural strength; he had to keep a Nazarite vow -- he would not cut his hair, he could eat no unclean meat; he could drink no strong drink. Delilah, a Philistine betrayed him, 16:18. He was constantly at odds with the Philistines; even though he was blinded, humiliated, and had lost his strength, God restored his strength and he killed more Philistines in his death than he did all of his life. **They had been oppressed by the Philistines for 40 years; they had 20 years of peace after Samson became the judge**.

- N. (Slide #35) **Eli** -- (Slide #36) he was from the tribe of **Levi**. He was both a Judge and a priest at **Shiloh**. His sons disobeyed God's laws for the portion the Levites received from sacrifices they made, I Sa. 2:12-17; they also committed fornication with women at the door of the Tabernacle, I Sa. 2:22-25. During his judgeship the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant, defeated Israel, and killed his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. I Sa. 4:1-11. Hearing about these terrible events, 98 year old Eli fell backward from his seat, broke his neck and died! **He judged Israel for 40 years!** I Sa. 4:12-18.
- O. (Slide #37) **Samuel** -- (Slide #38) he was from Ramah; he was of the tribe of **Levi**. He was a Judge, a priest, and a prophet! He judged Israel after Eli's death; when the people longed for a king, he anointed Saul as the first king and later David as the second king of Israel. I Sa. 1 - 25:1

III. (Slide #39) **This Is A Book Of VILE EVILS -- What Happens When People Reject God!**

- A. (▶) **Idolatry!**
1. The Canaanites AND Israelites were practicing idolatry -- the Canaanites constantly, the Israelites intermittently.
 2. The Israelites were directly disobeying the first two of the 10 Commandments!
 3. Gideon's ephod became an item of worship! Ju. 8:24-27
 4. Micah making a shine and ephod and setting up one of his own sons as his own priest. Later a Levite came, he made him his priest. Ju. 17:1-13
- B. (▶) **Stealing!**
1. A son stole his mother's money; she blessed him instead of correcting him. The son made an idol with the money. Ju. 17:1-6
 2. The Danites stole Micah's ephod, idols, and his Levite priest. Ju. 18:1-31
- C. (▶) **FOOLISH Decisions!**
1. Samson's choice of a Philistine woman for his wife. Ju. 14
 2. Samson married the harlot, Delilah. Ju. 16

D. (▶) Destruction!

1. Samson took 300 foxes; he tied two of them together with a torch between their tails and burned their shocks and standing grain along with their vineyards and olive groves. Ju. 15:1-5
2. Israel destroyed the city of Gibeah and surrounding cities of the Benjamites. Ju. 20:37-48.

E. (▶) Harlotry, Prostitution, And Homosexuality.

1. Samson with Delilah a harlot. Ju. 16:1
2. A Levite married a harlot; she played the harlot against him; she went back to her father's house and stayed there for 4 months. Ju. 19:1,2 As he was taking his harlot wife back home, they stayed in Gibeah. Ju. 19:10-21. The men of Gibeah tried to break down the door to get to the Levite so they could have homosexual relations with him. Ju. 19:22,23. The man of Gibeah offered these perverted men his own daughter and the harlot wife of the Levite; they refused because they wanted to have homosexual relations with the Levite. The Levite brought them his concubine; they raped her all night long; she died at the threshold of the house. The Levite showed no remorse; he threw the concubine on a donkey and took her to his house. Realizing that she was dead, he cut her into 12 pieces, and sent parts of her body to all 12 tribes of Israel. Ju. 19:24-30

F. (▶) War!

1. Gideon and his 300 soldiers defeated the Midianite army. Ju. 7
2. Jephthah slaughtered the Ammonites. Ju. 11:33
3. When the Levite's concubine was killed by the perverts of Gibeah, 400,000 soldiers of Israel attacked the Benjamites. The tribe of Benjamin had 26,000 soldiers and 700 soldiers of Gibeah. On the first day of battle, Israel lost 22,000 soldiers on the first day; on the second day they lost 18,000 soldiers; on the third day, Israel ambushed the soldiers of Gibeah and killed 25,100 of them.

G. (▶) Murder.

1. Ehud killed Eglon with a dagger. Ju. 3:16-22
2. Shamgar killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad. Ju. 3:31
3. Abimelech, Gideon's son, killed all but one of his brothers in an attempt to become the king. 8:30, 9:1-4

4. Abimelech killed all the people in the city of Shechem, 9:45, and the 1,000 men and women in the tower of Shechem, 9:46.
5. The Philistines burned Samson's wife and her father to death. Ju. 15:6
6. Samson slaughtered the Philistines, Ju. 15:8; he also killed 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey, Ju. 15:15,16.
7. Blinded and in prison as a grinder of grain, Samson was brought out to the Temple of Dagon; there God restored his strength; he killed 3,000 men and women when he pulled down the pillars of the Temple. Ju. 17:23-30
8. The Danites murdered the innocent and peaceable people of Laish. Ju. 18:27

IV. (Slide #40) Lessons From Judges!

- A. (▶) Every Generation MUST Protect Itself!
- B. (▶) Sadly, The Cycle Of Sin And Redemption Continues And People Suffer Horribly Because Of Sin!
- C. (▶) Sin Can Take You SO FAR FROM GOD And Into The Depths Of Depravity And Degradation Than You Can Fathom!
- D. (Slide #41) BE A VOICE FOR GOD!