

### **The Gospel of John: Why did Jesus make it so hard?**

- ς We must eat. True belief requires the internalizing of Jesus to the deepest part of our identities, our souls.
- ς As He progressively reveals Himself, whole-hearted belief is what will enable us to experience Him in all His fullness.

### **Proverbs:**

- ς Observe that a chapter begins and ends with book ends of a theme. Eg. Chapter 11 delineating an accurate valuation of righteousness. As one reads the rest of the chapter, use the theme to repeatedly guide the understanding of the particular verse, ie. v.2, the true value of pride and humility or v.3, integrity versus duplicity.
- ς See how a chapter's contents will give us a full understanding of the theme presented. Eg. Chapter 15 "Righteous Correction" – see all that is involved in correcting someone rightly.

### **Joshua:**

- ς "Choose yourself this day whom you will serve..."
- ς Recognize the eminent danger of ancestral idols; their prevalence cannot be ignored.
- ς Accurate knowledge and perception of the true and living God is essential to life in the Promised Land. (The LORD detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him. Prov.11:1)

### **Judges:**

- ς Why was there a need for judges?
- ς Opening context is incomplete obedience to drive out Canaanites. As a result, the Angel of the Lord issued the consequence in chapter 2.
- ς "It doesn't take all that...to be accepted by God."
- ς Or, "It takes more than than...to be accepted by God."
- ς DISCUSSION: Where were the Levites? Why did a generation arise who did not know the Lord (2:10)
- ς Philistine presence = the carnal nature / the flesh / the sinful nature
- ς Divine purpose in leaving carnal nature = **TEACH WARFARE**
  - THERE IS A WAR!!! The spiritual battle cannot be thought of with anything less than the gravest earnestness. What controls our hearts determines our behavior and our destiny.
- ς God raised up deliverers to give peace to the life of the people.
  - Note that deliverers were raised up when the cried out (in repentance) for God's mercy.
    - ♣ God feels our pain, 10:16 "He could bear Israel's pain no longer."
  - Othniel – brother of Caleb, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him; brought peace 40 years.

- Ehud – double edged sword strapped to the right thigh
  - ♣ The Word of God bound to our walk, the right side indicative of that which is authoritative in controlling our behavior.
- ς With each deliverer, can you see foreshadowing of the true, ultimate Deliverer?
  - Shamgar
  - Deborah
  - Gideon
    - ♣ God’s way to victory is not by might, nor by power, but by His Spirit.
    - ♣ Gideon’s 300
    - ♣ Consider the battle at Jericho: Spiritual warfare is done in ways that appear weak and ludicrous.
  - Jephthah
  - Samson
    - ♣ 4 chapters of a deliverer who reveals, to a great degree, the mysterious Gospel. That’s why the Angel of the Lord said He wouldn’t tell Manoah His name, that it was beyond understanding. The Angel’s name (His identity) was so enraptured by the salvation work of Christ that He could / would not explain it to Manoah.
    - ♣ What can you see in the life of Samson which reveals the awesome, great pattern of redemption through Christ?
    - ♣ The Spirit of the Lord left him when the covering of God’s authority was shaven off.
      - REFLECTION and EXPLORATION: When did God’s Spirit leave Jesus?

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## Judges: Need for a King

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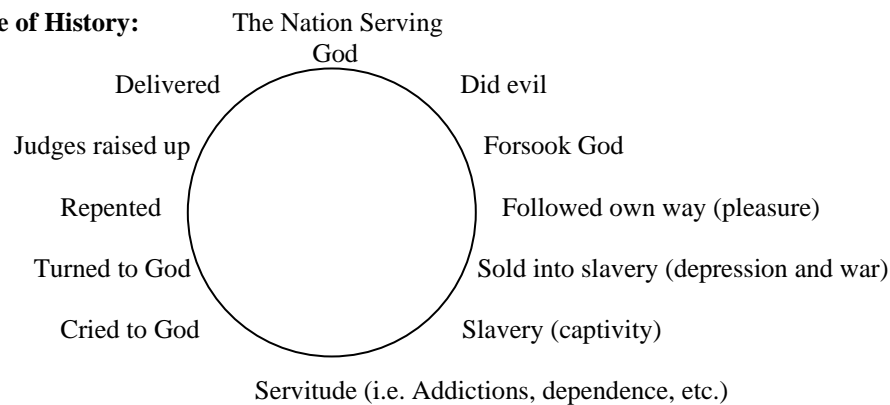
**Key verse:** In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit. (Judges 21:25)

**Theme:** Backsliding – and the amazing grace of God in recovering and restoring.

**Purposes:**

1. Historically it records the history of the nation from the death of Joshua to Samuel, the last of the judges and the first of the prophets. It bridges the gap between Joshua and the rise of the monarchy. There was no leader to take Joshua's place in the way he had taken Moses' place. This was the trial period of the theocracy after they entered the land.
2. Morally it was the time of deep declension for the people as they turned from the Unseen Leader and descended to the low level of "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes." [CONTRAST 1:1 WITH 20:18] This should have been an era of glowing progress, but it was a dark day of repeated failure.

**A Cycle of History:**



**Overview:**

Judges is a book about defeat, deliverance, and disappointment. The Israelites entered the Promised Land with high hopes and exuberant expectations. After the powerful deliverance out of Egypt, being led miraculously through the wilderness, and the glory of Mt. Sinai, you would expect them to attain a high level of living and victory in the land. Such was not the case. They failed ignobly and suffered miserable defeat after defeat.

God raised up judges (military leaders) to deliver His people when they apostacized and cried to Him in their misery. With each judge, the Lord revealed glimpses of His glorious deliverance which would come through the true Judge of all mankind, the Messiah. There is much Gospel in this book, especially in the life of Samson.

All the judges were themselves limited in their capabilities. In fact, each one seemed to have some defect and handicap which was not a hindrance but became a positive asset under the sovereign direction of God. None of them were national leaders like Moses or Joshua. The record is not continuous but rather a spotty account of local judges in limited sections of the nation.

**Outline:**

- I. Introduction to era of the Judges , ch.1-2
- II. Era of the Judges, ch.3-16
- III. Results of era of the Judges, ch.17-21