

## Judges: A Dark Period in History

A common phrase in the book of Judges is, “*And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt*” (Judges 2:11-12).

**Raymond Dillard & Tremper Longman** – “The book of Judges traces the period between the death of Joshua and the rise of the monarchy in Israel. The book is in many respects a dialogue about a relationship: the relationship between God and Israel. Every reader of the book learns that God is longsuffering and compassionate; every reader cannot but see aspects of his or her life refracted in the characters of the narrative.”

“No author is named in the book of Judges, nor is any indication given of the writer or writers who are responsible for it.”

“The book of Judges shows us that the nation of Israel survived the dark days of the judges entirely by the grace of God. In mercy, He sent oppressors as reminders of their rebellion. In mercy, He responded to their cries and raised up deliverers. Judges also illustrates the fundamental problem of the human heart. When God’s people forget His saving acts, they go after other gods.”

A cycle of \_\_\_\_\_ is evident in the book Judges.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

In the book of Judges, we see the urgent need for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
Daniel Block – “The true hero in the book is God and God alone.”

Discovering spiritual principles in the book of Judges that \_\_\_\_\_ to life today!

- Leaders need to realize that an assignment from God is but for a \_\_\_\_\_.

**Judges 1:1** – “*After the death of Joshua...*”

- God’s people need to know that partial obedience is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Judges 1:28** – *When Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not drive them out completely.*

- The way to lose a generation spiritually is for God's people to be \_\_\_\_\_.

**Judges 2:10** – *“And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.”*

- The Lord uses people that the \_\_\_\_\_ would pass over.

**Judges 6:15-16** – *And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.” And the Lord said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.”*

- \_\_\_\_\_ need to make sure that “the right people are on the bus and in the right seats.”

**Judges 7:7** – *And the Lord said to Gideon, “With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home.”*

- God's people need to be \_\_\_\_\_ about making vows, promises, or pledges to the Lord.

**Judges 11:30-31** – *And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord and said, “If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.”*

- It's painful to see leaders \_\_\_\_\_ their lives and legacy.

**Judges 16:20** – *And she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” And he awoke from his sleep and said, “I will go out as at other times and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him.*

- A nation's hope is found in its \_\_\_\_\_ seeking the Lord with sincerity.

**Judges 20:26** – *Then all the people of Israel, the whole army, went up and came to Bethel and wept. They sat there before the Lord and fasted that day until evening, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. And the people of Israel inquired of the Lord (for the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days).*

- A leadership \_\_\_\_\_ often leads to chaos and dark days.

**Judges 21:25** – *“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”*

## Judges: A Dark Period in History

A common phrase in the book of Judges is, “*And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt*” (Judges 2:11-12).

**Raymond Dillard & Tremper Longman** – “The book of Judges traces the period between the death of Joshua and the rise of the monarchy in Israel. The book is in many respects a dialogue about a relationship: the relationship between God and Israel. Every reader of the book learns that God is longsuffering and compassionate; every reader cannot but see aspects of his or her life refracted in the characters of the narrative.”

“No author is named in the book of Judges, nor is any indication given of the writer or writers who are responsible for it.”

“The book of Judges shows us that the nation of Israel survived the dark days of the judges entirely by the grace of God. In mercy, He sent oppressors as reminders of their rebellion. In mercy, He responded to their cries and raised up deliverers. Judges also illustrates the fundamental problem of the human heart. When God’s people forget His saving acts, they go after other gods.”

A cycle of **behavior** is evident in the book Judges.

- **Rebellion**
- **Retribution**
- **Repentance**
- **Restoration**

In the book of Judges, we see the urgent need for **grace** and **leadership**. Daniel Block – “The true hero in the book is God and God alone.”

Discovering spiritual principles in the book of Judges that **relate** to life today!

- Leaders need to realize that an assignment from God is but for a **season**.

**Judges 1:1** – “*After the death of Joshua...*”

- God’s people need to know that partial obedience is **disobedience**.

**Judges 1:28** – *When Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not drive them out completely.*

- The way to lose a generation spiritually is for God's people to be **silent**.

**Judges 2:10** – *“And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.”*

- The Lord uses people that the **world** would pass over.

**Judges 6:15-16** – *“And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.” And the Lord said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.”*

- **Churches** need to make sure that “the right people are on the bus and in the right seats.”

**Judges 7:7** – *“And the Lord said to Gideon, “With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home.”*

- God's people need to be **cautious** about making vows, promises, or pledges to the Lord.

**Judges 11:30-31** – *“And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord and said, “If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.”*

- It's painful to see leaders **wreck** their lives and legacy.

**Judges 16:20** – *“And she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” And he awoke from his sleep and said, “I will go out as at other times and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him.*

- A nation's hope is found in its **citizens** seeking the Lord with sincerity.

**Judges 20:26** – *“Then all the people of Israel, the whole army, went up and came to Bethel and wept. They sat there before the Lord and fasted that day until evening, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. And the people of Israel inquired of the Lord (for the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days).*

- A leadership **void** often leads to chaos and dark days.

**Judges 21:25** – *“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”*