

## STOP 6: JUDGES

**PURPOSE:** To show that God's judgment against sin is certain, and his forgiveness of sin and restoration to relationship are just as certain for those who repent.

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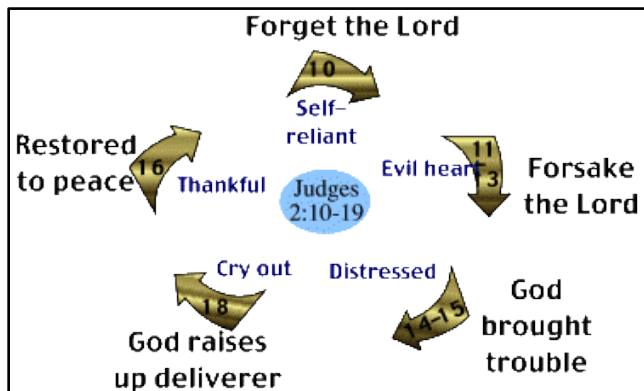
**ORIGINAL AUDIENCE:** The people of Israel

**DATE WRITTEN:** Between 1045 and 1000 BC

**SETTING:** The land of Canaan, later called Israel. God had helped the Israelites conquer Canaan, which had been inhabited by a host of wicked nations. But they were in danger of losing this Promised Land because they compromised their convictions and disobeyed God.

### **KEY VERSE:**

“In those days *there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*” (17:6)



### **KEY PEOPLE:**

Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Abimelech, Jephthah, Samson, Delilah

### **SPECIAL FEATURE:**

The book of Judges spans a period of over 325 years, recording six successive periods of oppression and deliverance, and the careers of 12 deliverers.

And the people served the LORD **all the days of Joshua**, and all the **days of the elders** that outlived Joshua, who had **seen all the great works of the LORD**, that he did for Israel. (Judges 2:7)

And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: **and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD**, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did **evil in the sight of the LORD**, and served Baalim: (Judges 2:10-11)

### **OUTLINE:**

- THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF ISRAEL (1:1—3:6)
- THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF ISRAEL BY THE JUDGES (3:7—16:31)
- THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF ISRAEL (17:1—21:25)

### **CHRIST IN JUDGES:**

- The angel of the LORD (2:1)
- Every judge a type of our \_\_\_\_\_ – the Lord Jesus

## MEGATHEMES

THEME	EXPLANATION	IMPORTANCE
Decline/ Compromise	Whenever a judge died, the people faced decline and failure because they compromised their high spiritual purpose in many ways. They abandoned their mission to drive all the people out of the land, and they adopted the customs of the people living around them.	Society has many rewards to offer those who compromise their faith: wealth, acceptance, recognition, power, and influence. When God gives us a mission, it must not be polluted by a desire for approval from society. We must keep our eyes on Christ, who is our Judge and Deliverer.
Decay/ Apostasy	Israel's moral downfall had its roots in the fierce independence that each tribe cherished. It led to everyone doing whatever seemed right in his own eyes. There was no unity in government or in worship. Law and order broke down. Finally, idol worship and man-made religion led to the complete abandoning of faith in God.	We can expect decay when we value anything more highly than God. If we value our own independence more than dedication to God, we have placed an idol in our hearts. Soon our lives become temples to that god. We must constantly regard God's first claim on our lives and all our desires.
Defeat/ Oppression	God used evil oppressors to punish the Israelites for their sin, to bring them to the point of repentance, and to test their allegiance to him.	Rebellion against God leads to disaster. God may use defeat to bring wandering hearts back to him. When all else is stripped away, we recognize the importance of serving only him.
Repentance	Decline, decay, and defeat caused the people to cry out to God for help. They vowed to turn from idolatry and to turn to God for mercy and deliverance. When they repented, God delivered them.	Idolatry gains a foothold in our hearts when we make anything more important than God. We must identify modern idols in our hearts, renounce them, and turn to God for his love and mercy.
Deliverance / Heroes	Because Israel repented, God raised up heroes to deliver his people from their path of sin and the oppression it brought. He used many kinds of people to accomplish this purpose by filling them with his Holy Spirit.	God's Holy Spirit is available to all of God's people. Anyone who is dedicated to God can be used for his service. Real heroes recognize the futility of human effort without God's guidance and power.

### **A Terrible Headache** Judges 4:15-24

I. Sisera fleeing from the battle v.15-17

II. Sisera entering the tent of Jael v.17-20

A. He thought he was safe.

B. Jael gave him milk to drink and let him rest.

III. The Headache v.21-24

A. Israel wins the battle.

B. Jael is better than her husband. 5:24-31