



THE BOOK OF
JUDGES

Sermon Series Notes



“Breaking the cycle- lessons from the Judges” (Judges 3-7)

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1 Corinthians 10:1-12 Read

Joshua- Picture of the victorious Christian life. Life in the spirit. Life with Joshua, Jesus, leading you.

Judges- Picture of life lived in the flesh. No Joshua.

Book starts off with: 1:1 After the death of Joshua, the Israelites asked the Lord- “Who will be the first to go up and fight for us against the Canaanites? And ends with –every man did as he saw fit.

Problems:

1. (1:1) God was the authority and they didn’t ask of the Lord.
2. (1:27-36) Compromised through complacency.
3. (2:1-2) Actively ignored what they should have done (smashed altars), removed enemy
4. (2:10)- didn’t pass on to the next generation.
5. (2:17) Influenced verses influencing.

Consequences: Judges 6:1-6.

God prepares their hearts to respond V. 7-10 so they understand that they are the reason for the calamity in Israel.

V. 36-40- Should I be asking for a fleece?

1. God is still gracious but:
2. Context: pagan, idolatrous family, people willing to kill for desecrating altar
3. No marauding army of Midianites threatening your existence.
4. No Holy Spirit like we do
5. Jesus- rebuke: A rebellious, wicked generation seeks after a sign.
6. Obedience is the key and faith is what pleases God the most.
7. Fleece wasn’t used for direction but confirmation.

Prescription for breaking the cycle-

1. **Be on Guard.** - Don’t think you are the exception.
2. **take sin seriously.**
3. **Quick to repent** or do you wait for 8 years before God gives you a judge like Othniel? Or 18 years in the case of Ehud. Or 20 years with Deborah and Barak and 7 years before Gideon. Real problem isn’t Midian or Mesopotamia or Moab, but disobedience.

4. **Willingness to kill the king.**

5. Steps of faith

a. sometimes a step of faith is getting rid of fear. Deut. 20:8 Then the officers shall add, "Is anyone afraid or fainthearted? Let him go home so that his fellow soldiers will not become disheartened too." This was a command that Israel was supposed to do every battle. Fear erodes faith.

6. **The spirit of the Lord** needs to be upon.

7. **Constant reminders of God's faithfulness, and our fickleness**

Isaiah 48:17-18 This is what the LORD says—

your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:

"I am the LORD your God,

who teaches you what is best for you,

who directs you in the way you should go.

¹⁸ If only you had paid attention to my commands,

your peace would have been like a river,

your well-being like the waves of the sea.

¹⁹ Your descendants would have been like the sand,

1.