

# JUDGES (1-21)

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## **Name and Contents:**

1. Judges is named for the fact that it records the deeds of thirteen different judges during the history of Israel. The particular writer of the book is unknown.
2. The book covers the first 350 years of Israel in the Promised Land after the death of Joshua and prior to the ascension of Saul as King of the nation.
3. Key verses: 17:6 and 21:25

## **Outline:**

The Covenant (1-2)

The Cycles (3-16)

The Corruption (17-21)

## **The Covenant Broken (1-2):**

1. After the death of Joshua, Israel began by seeking the Lord but this did not continue (1:1; 2:1-3).
2. One of the reasons Israel fell into sin was the parent's failure to teach the next generation the commands of the Lord (2:10-13).
3. Another evidence of Israel's breach of God's covenant was the children's failure to listen to God's word and follow the commandment and the example of their parents (2:17,20).
4. God gives Israel a tough life to live to test them for their faithfulness to him (2:20-23).

## **The Cycles Begin (3-16):**

1. This section involves a series of seven cycles of sin, servitude, and salvation. The sin involves a departure from serving God, idolatry, and immorality. The servitude involves being turned over to the enslavement of their own passions as well as foreign nations as punishment for their sin and discipline to lead them to repentance. The salvation involves God delivering them after their confession of sin and repentance through the leadership of a judge securing for them a period of peace throughout the land.
2. The specific cycles of sin, servitude, and salvation are found in the following seven passages:(1) Judges 3:7-11, (2) Judges 3:12-31, (3) Judges 4-5, (4) Judges 6-8:32, (5) Judges 8:33-10:5, (6) Judges 10:6-12:15, and (7) Judges 13-16.

3. The lesson to be learned is found in Romans 6:1-11. We are not to continue in sin and let sin have mastery over us. We are to reckon ourselves dead to sin to escape the cycle of sin, servitude, and salvation.

**The Corruption Blooms (17 - 21):**

This section involves the idolatry of Micah (17 -18) and the immorality of Gibea (19 - 21).

**Application:**

1. Recognize that national moral decay is a result of religious apostasy. A failure in Christian education in the home, church, and school will lead to the destruction of our country. The reason is simple: God will not honor us if we do not keep covenant with him. Christian education is not optional for Christians (this does not mean we should not be in public schools).

2. A decision to follow Christ must be followed up with obedient living every day. God expects a holy people, not a people that do what is right in their own eyes. He expects us to know his commandments and obey them. Ignorance to knowing and applying God's law is unacceptable.

3. God may tolerate our sins for a number of years but he will not tolerate them forever. His slowness to judgment does not negate the certainty of judgment; it only accentuates the long suffering and patience of our God. Let us not presume upon his mercy.

4. God is clearly ready to answer our prayers and pardon us from sin. The book of Judges has much to say about the power of repentance and prayer. Consider God's merciful answers (3:9, 15; 4:3-7; 6:6-12; 10:15-16).

5. Consider your own lack of spiritual growth and progress to be a problem with sin. In the book of Numbers, God's people wander for 38 years because of sin. In the book of Judges, the people of God wander around again and again making no progress because of sin. The quicker we deal with sin through confession and repentance, the quicker God's hand of blessing is upon us and we prosper for his glory.

6. Remember that our covenant agreement is to be with God and not the world. God takes his covenant with us seriously. Whenever our relationship to the world and to the things of the world occupies our thoughts and desires above our desires for God, we are falling away from the covenant of God and the blessings that come with it.