

## JUDGES

The Hebrew word for 'judges' is *shaphat* which means *saviours/deliverers*. In the pure grace of God, He raised up saviours for His people from time to time, during these 200-300 years, to deliver them from their enemies and from themselves!

The book of **Judges** covers a very dark period in the life of Israel, spanning roughly 300 years.

The spiritual climate of this period can be summarized by this sentence: *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.* (**Judges 17:6, 21:25**).

Outline: The *Whys* (**1:1-3:6**)  
a) Reason for the fall of Israel  
b) Reason for the rise of the judges

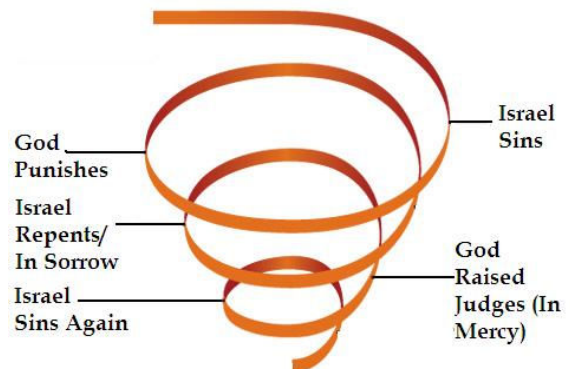
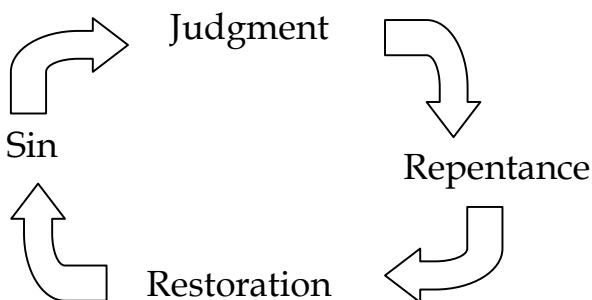
The *Hows* (**3:7-16:31**)

- Through Othniel
- Through \_\_\_\_\_
- Through \_\_\_\_\_
- Through Deborah and Barak
- Through \_\_\_\_\_
- Through \_\_\_\_\_
- Through \_\_\_\_\_
- Through \_\_\_\_\_
- Through Jephthah
- Through \_\_\_\_\_
- Through \_\_\_\_\_
- Through \_\_\_\_\_
- Through Samson

The *Examples* (**17:1-21:25**)

- Idolatry in Israel
- Sodom in Israel

*Repeated Cycle or Downward Spiral?*



*The LORD who will not let Israel*

Downward trend seen in **Judges 1:27–35**. Did not drive out ... did not drive out ... did not drive out ... the Canaanites were determined to dwell ... the Amorites forced ..... when Israel was strong, they put them under tribute .... Clear violation of **Deuteronomy 7:1-4!**

### **Lessons and Purpose of Judges**

- \*\* Partial obedience = disobedience
- \*\* Compromise sow seeds for decay
- \*\* When we replace God's standard with relative personal standards, we are on the road of idolatry.
- \*\* Our sins may affect us somewhat and affect our children very much!

**We need a king - not any king, but a God-fearing and God-loving king!**