

God uses
**imperfect
people**



newlifechurch

WOMEN'S SUMMER STUDY
**A STUDY IN CHARACTERS
FROM JUDGES**

June 2020

Welcome to Our Study

As we study the book of Judges, we will also learn to study the Bible using the Inductive Study method. This method employs three simple questions: What does it say? What does it mean? How do I apply it to myself? This workbook will guide you through the study.

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Background Information

I. When:

God would give Israel the Land by conquest, primarily to fulfill the covenant He had pledged to Abraham and his descendants, but also to pass just judgment on the sinful inhabitants.

II. Who:

a. God and the Angel of the Lord

b. Israel

With God, all things are _____. With God, there is no _____.

With God, defeat is not _____.

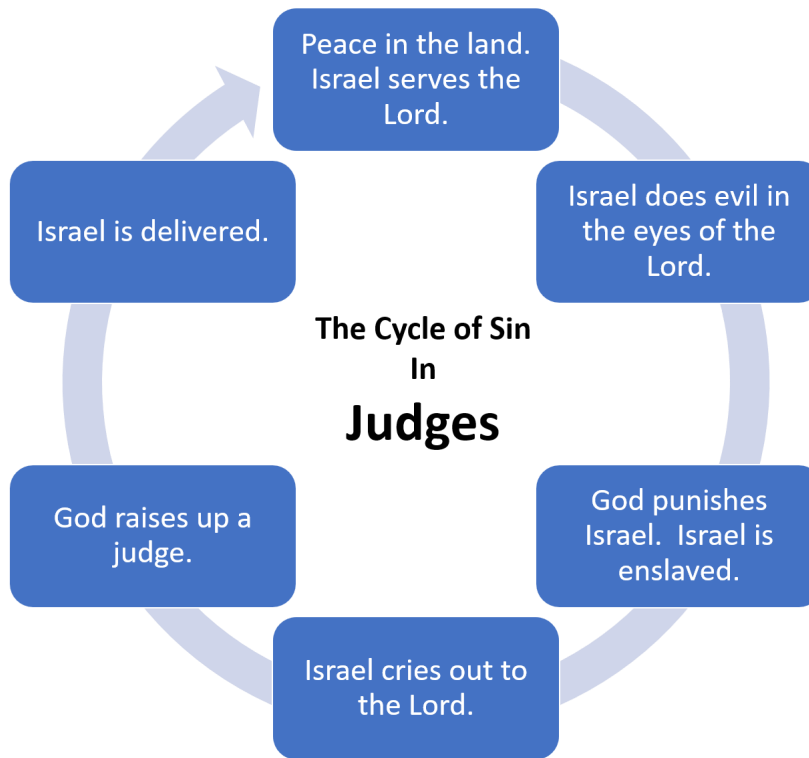
c. Surrounding people and their gods.

I would be devastated if _____ happened. Are you willing to accept whatever God sends you in the area of your _____?

d. Judges

III. Where – see family tree and map on page 30

IV. What – the cycle of the judges



A _____ becomes an idol when it competes with the _____ and the affections of God.

V. Why:

- God relentlessly offers His _____ to people who do not _____ it.
- God wants _____ over every area of our lives.
- We need a true _____ to which all human saviors point through both their flaws and strengths.
- God is _____ no matter what it looks like.

Every way
of a man
is right
in his
own
eyes,



But the
LORD
weighs the
heart.



Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart – Proverbs 27:2

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you

Homework Example

Read Judges 3:12-30

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

Israel did evil in the eyes of the Lord. The Lord gave Eglon power over them and they were subject to him. Israel cries out to the Lord. He sends Ehud, a left-handed man to deliver them. Ehud takes tribute to Eglon. He has a sword strapped to his thigh. He presents the tribute to fat Eglon and leaves. Near Gilgal, he goes back to Eglon with a secret message from God. The king rises and Ehud plunges sword into Eglon's fat belly and it disappears. His bowels discharge. Ehud locks the door and escapes. Eglon's servants smell discharge and do not go in. After a long time, they go in and find him dead. This gave Ehud time to escape. He blows a trumpet calling Israel to war. He credits the Lord as giving them Moab. They take possession. They defeat 10,000 vigorous and strong Moabites. Not one escaped. The tables are turned and now Moab is subject to Israel for 80 years.

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

God saw the people's sin and allowed Moab to rule over them.

God heard the people's cry and in compassion, raised Ehud.

God directed Ehud's steps. God caused Ehud to go back and kill the king. God provided time for him to escape.

God made Ehud a leader that Israel followed. God gave Israel defeat and peace for 80 years.

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

Have I done evil in the eyes of the Lord? Evil leads to oppression and submission. If I see I am made subject to someone or something, I can cry out to God. He is compassionate. He loves His own and wants them to be free. God provides a way. God sets me free. God gives me peace. I can choose to believe and rest in the fact that God is in control of every aspect of my life.

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you

Read Judges 3:6-11

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

Homework Practice

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

The Cycle Begins
Judges 3

I. Othniel – Israel did _____ in the sight of the Lord. **Judges 3:7-11**

How do I keep from _____ God? By _____ Him
_____.

II. Ehud – An _____ and _____ judge - Judges 3:12 - 30

God's power in a flawed servant is _____ in comparison to the _____ of our enemies.

III. Shamgar – he too _____ Israel - Judges 3:31

Who dares to despise the day of _____?

Every day we spend in _____ intimacy with God
impacts the _____ of our lives forever.

Lamentations 3:22

Because
of the

Lord's

great LOVE

we are not

consumed

for his
compassions
never fail



Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed for his compassions never fail.

Lamentations 3:22

Week 1 Day 1 - Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you

Read Judges 4:1-10 and Judges 5:1-3

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

Week 1 Day 2 - Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you

Read Judges 5:9-23

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

Week 1 Day 3 - Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you

Read Judges 4:11-16 and Judges 5:4-8

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

Week 1 Day 4 - Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you

Read Judges 4:17-24

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

Week 1 Day 5 - Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you
Read Judges 5:24-31

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

**Ordinary People, Extraordinary God
Deborah, Barak and Jael (Judges 4-5)**

- I. People's _____ contrasted with God's _____
 - A. Downfall (Judges 4:1-3)

 - B. God's Mercy (Judges 4:4-9)

- II. _____ contrasted with the _____
 - A. Willing (Judges 4:10; 5:1-3,9,13-15a,18)

 - B. Unwilling (Judges 5:15b-17, 23)

- III. Power of _____ contrasted with Power of _____
 - A. Power of people (Judges 5:6-8; 4:11)

 - B. Power of God (Judges 4:12-16;5:4-5,21)

- IV. _____ contrasted with _____ Mom
 - A. Jael (Judges 4:17-22;5:24-27)

 - B. Sisera's Mom (Judges 5:28-30; 4:23-24)



I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief – Mark 9:24

Week 2 Day 1 – Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you.

Read Judges 6:1-27

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

Week 2 Day 2 - Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you

Read Judges 6:28-40

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

Week 2 Day 3 - Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you

Read Judges 7

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

Week 2 Day 4 - Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you

Read Judges 8:1-21

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

Week 2 Day 5 - Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you

Read Judges 8:22-35

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

God's Strength in Our Weakness

Judges 6-8

I. _____ CALLING

Judges 6

- *Principle 1:* God hears our _____.
- *Principle 2:* God can _____ us, even when we feel _____.
- *Reflection question:* Where in your life are you struggling with inadequacy?

II. _____

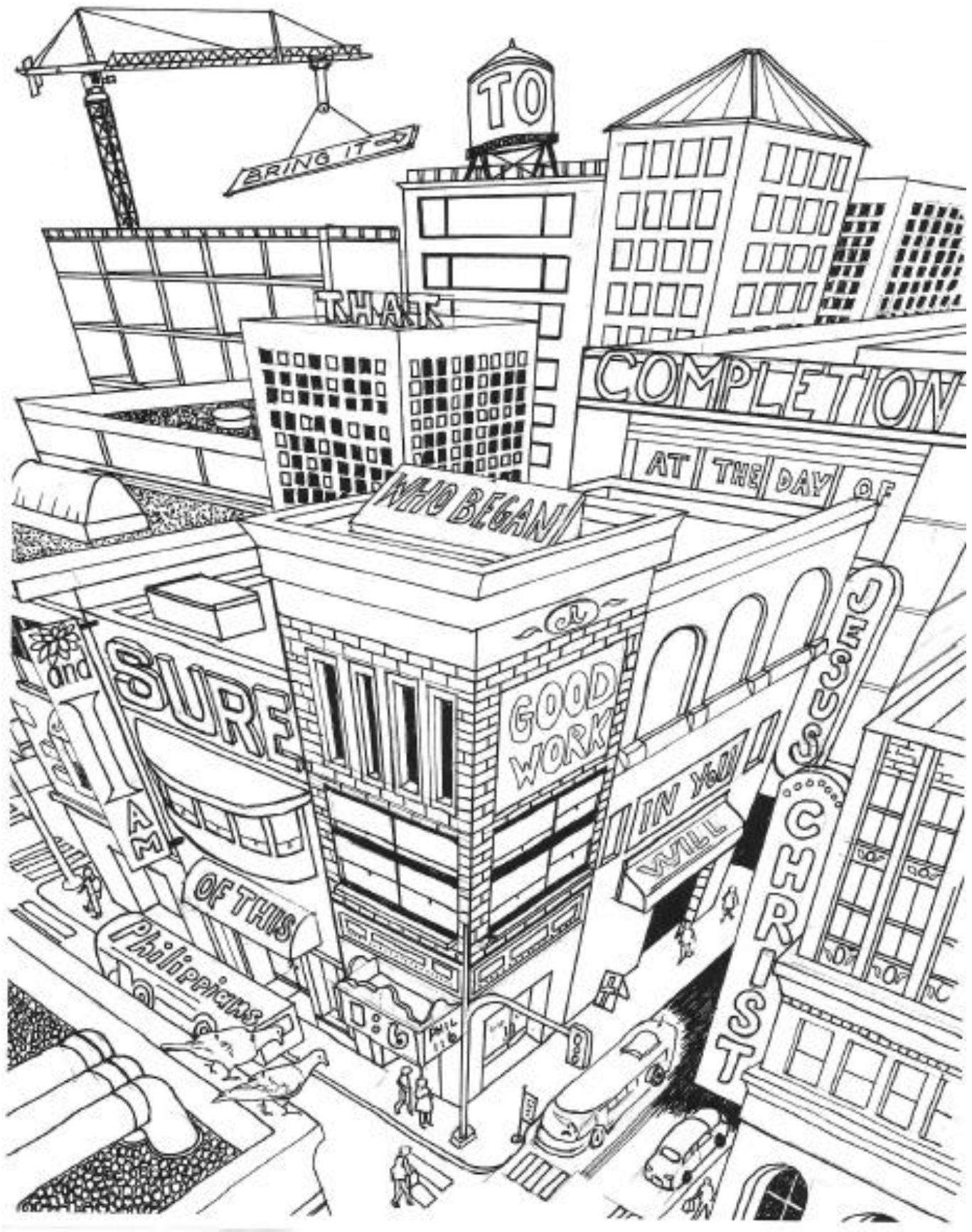
Judges 7 – 8:21

- *Principle 1:* God wants us to rely on _____, not our own _____.
- *Principle 2:* God loves to _____.
- *Principle 3:* With _____, all things are _____.
- *Reflection questions:* What battles are you trying to fight with your own strength instead of relying on God's power? What seemingly impossible thing do you need God to do in your life?

III. _____

Judges 8: 22-35

- *Principle 1:* Even when _____ has been good to us, we're tempted to _____.
- *Reflection question:* Who or what in your life tends to get your time and attention more than God?



I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. – Philippians 1:6

Week 3 Day 1 - Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you

Read Judges 13

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

Week 3 Day 2 - Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you

Read Judges 14

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

Week 3 Day 3 - Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you

Read Judges 15

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

Week 3 Day 4 - Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you

Read Judges 16:1 - 22

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

Week 3 Day 5 - Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you

Read Judges 16:23-31

What is happening in this story? (What does it say?)

What is God teaching His people? (What does it mean?)

How does this story change me? (How do I apply it to myself?)

Peace in God's Character Judges 13-16

I. God Comes - **Judges 13**

- Israel is _____ to worship foreign gods and remain in their _____, but God isn't content to _____ them there.
- When God does _____ to them, they don't _____ him.
- God _____ about you too much to _____ you alone in your sin.

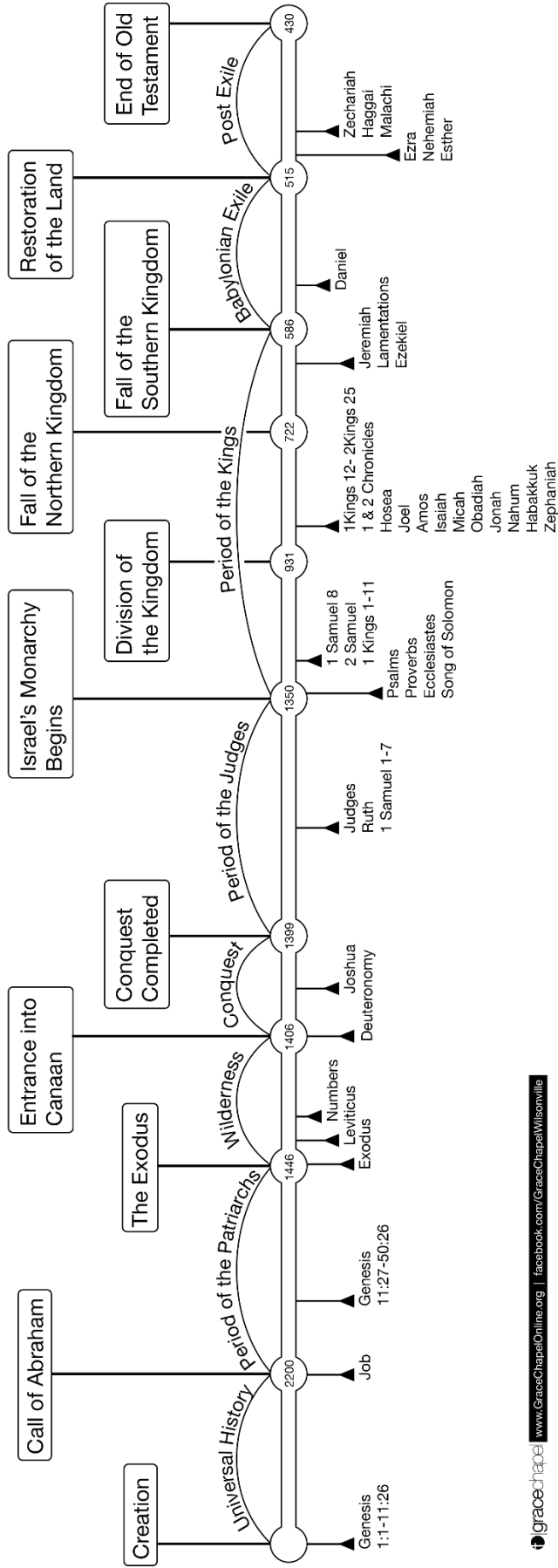
II. God Confronts and Conducts – **Judges 14-16:22**

- God is going to use Samson's _____ to _____ the Philistines.
- God is _____ enough to take Samson's sinful choices and _____ them in the paths of his good purposes.
- You can't _____ your sin if you've made _____ with it.

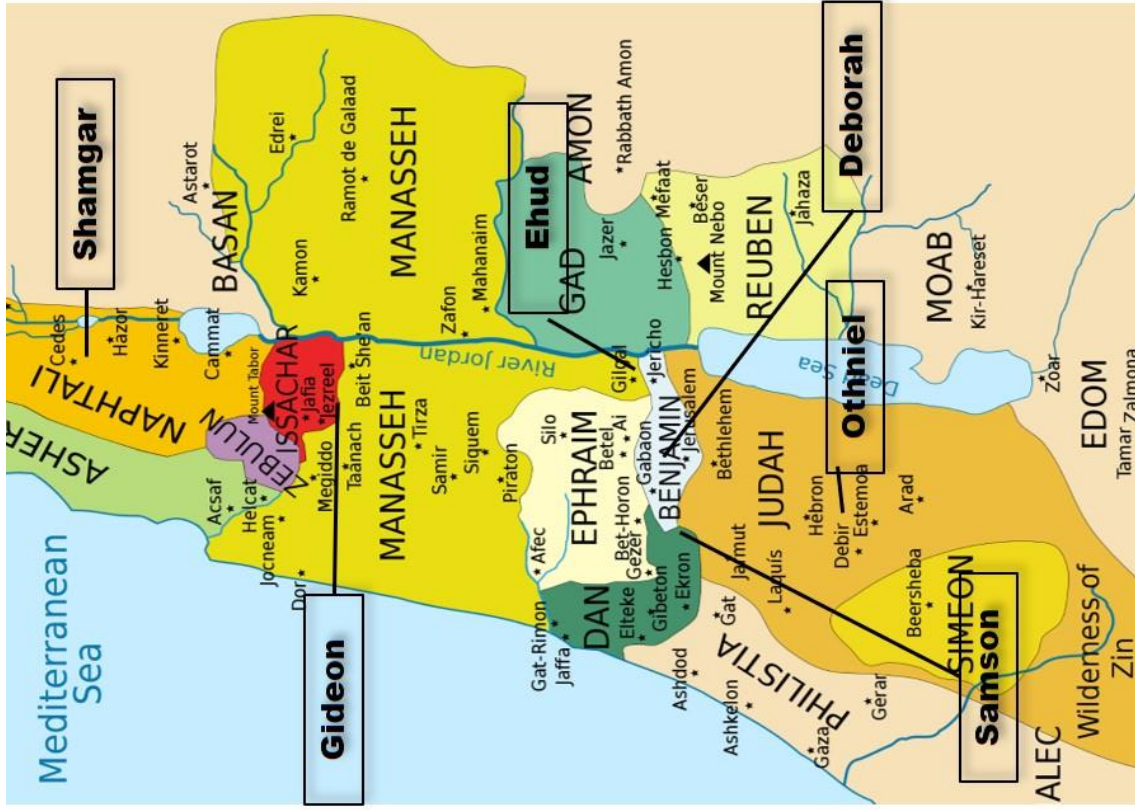
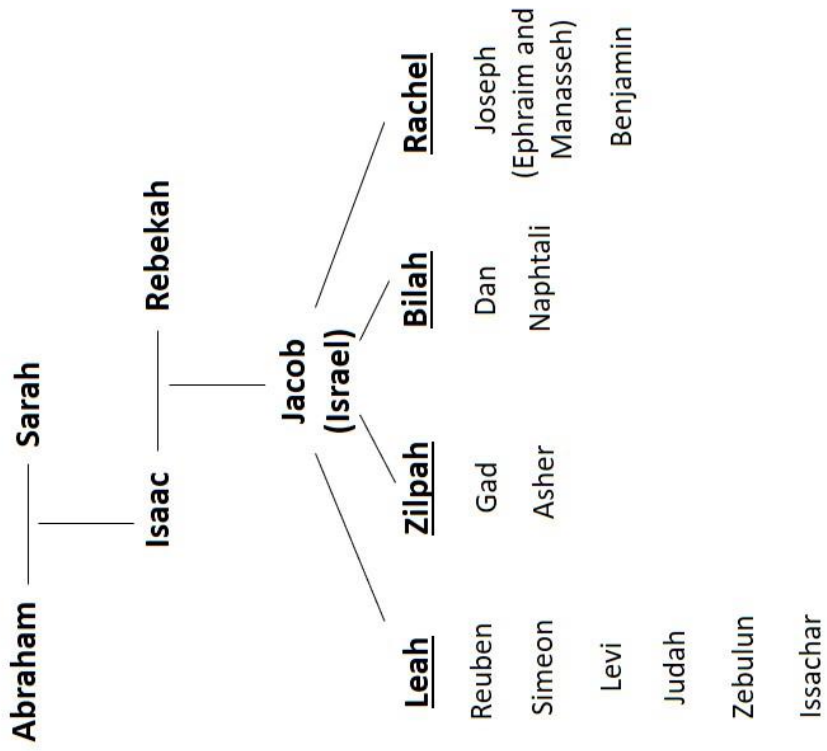
III. God Completes – **Judges 16:23-31**

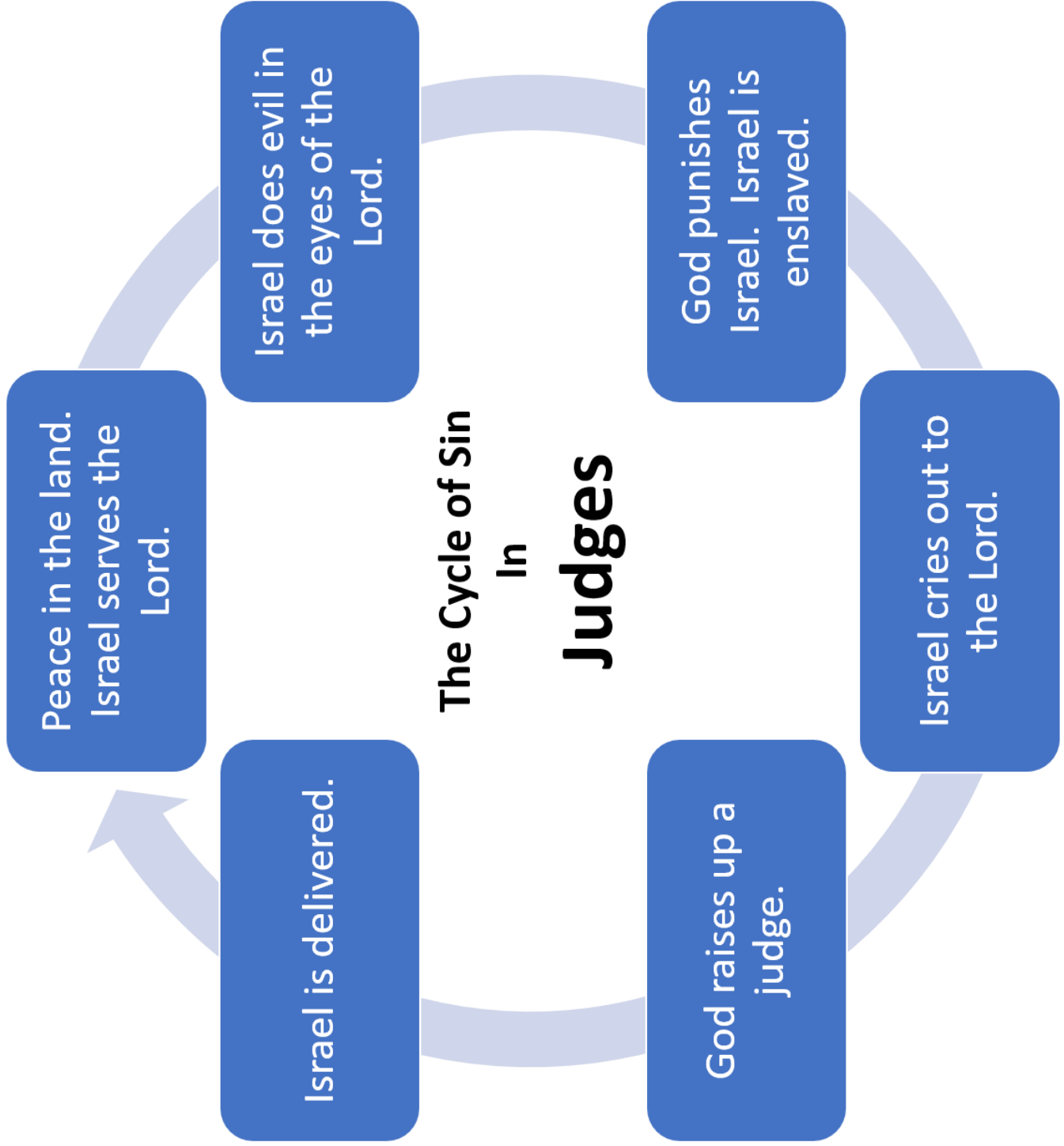
- God _____ the judges' work in _____ once for all.
- The _____ that was so elusive in Judges was _____ through Jesus.
- Our _____ ultimately _____ on God.

OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE



12 Tribes of Israel

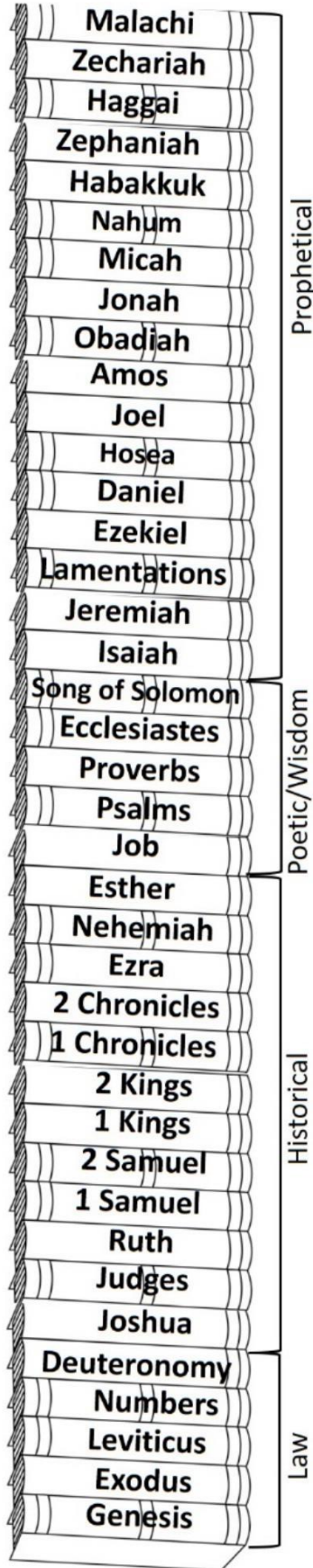




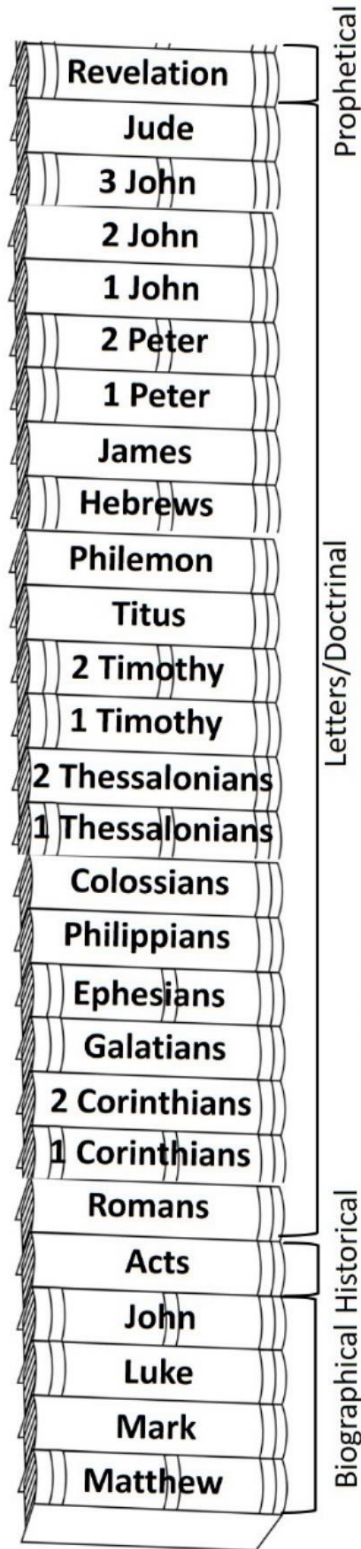
False Gods at the Time of Judges

False god	People Group	Characteristics
Ashtoreth, Astarte	Canaanites	This goddess was connected with fertility and maternity. Worship of Ashtoreth was strong at Sidon. She was sometimes called a consort or companion of Baal. King Solomon, influenced by his foreign wives, fell into Ashtoreth worship, which led to his downfall.
Baal, Bel	Canaanites	Worshipped in many forms, but often as a sun god or storm god. He was a fertility god who supposedly made the earth bear crops and women bear children. Rites involved with Baal worship included cult prostitution and sometimes human sacrifice. A famous showdown occurred between the prophets of Baal and Elijah at Mount Carmel. Worshipping Baal was a recurring temptation for the Israelites, as noted in the book of Judges. Different regions paid homage to their own local variety of Baal.
Chemosh, the subduer	Moabites and Ammonites	Rites involving this god were said to be cruel and may have involved human sacrifice. Solomon erected an altar to Chemosh south of the Mount of Olives outside Jerusalem, on the Hill of Corruption. (2 Kings 23:13)
Dagon	Philistines	Dagon had the body of a fish and a human head and hands in its statues. Dagon was a god of water and grain. Samson, the Hebrew judge, met his death at the temple of Dagon.
Milcon, Moloch, Molech, and Molek	Ammonites	Milcon is associated with divination, seeking knowledge of the future through occult means. Child sacrifice was sometimes connected with Milcom. He was among the false gods worshipped by Solomon at the close of his reign.

The Bible



Old Testament – 39 Books



New Testament – 27 Books

Speakers

Session 1: Introduction and Judges 1-3 - Laurie Brown – Lbrown@enewlife.com

Session 2: Judges 4-5 - Janet Firebaugh – janetfirebaugh@gmail.com

Session 3: Judges 6-8 – Vonda Ulfig - ymulfig@aep.com

Session 4: Judges 13-16 – Kathryn Steveline - kathryn.steveline@gmail.com

Need more information? Would you like to talk about what it means to be a Christian? Contact any of the speakers from the list above.

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Gospel Message

1. **The eternal God created heaven and earth and everything in them.**

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

2. **God made everything for His own pleasure and glory.**

I Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

3. **All of humanity has sinned, failing to glorify God supremely.**

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

4. **Guilty of great sin, we all stand condemned before a Holy God.**

Hebrews 9:27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.

5. **God's great heart of LOVE graciously made a way for guilty sinners to be saved.**

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

6. **God's saving plan required sending His Son JESUS to earth to die for our sins**

I Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God.

7. **God raised Jesus from the dead, fully satisfied with His sacrifice.**

Romans 1:4 They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree, but God raised Him on the third day and made Him to appear.

8. **All who truly repent of their sin, trusting only in Christ's sacrifice, receive all the gifts of the Gospel?**

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.



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