



Broken People ♦ Faithful God

Unlikely Leaders ♦ Unbelievable Power

“Staying faithful in an unfaithful world”

Charles R. Williams

Outline of the Book of Judges

1. In this book we will find Israel falling and getting back up only to fall again.
2. God has always been faithful to His promises; however, His people have not.
3. The Book of Judges demonstrates how far into the depths of evil a people can descend when they turn from God.
3. They had not king and did as they pleased.
4. Christians have the perfect King, Jesus, the Christ.
 - a. Let us not stray from His authority and love.
 - b. Let us remain faithful no matter where the world may go.
5. Faithfulness to a faithful God, will bring blessings to us, our families, and our nation.

Discussion:

I. The Early Period After Joshua's Death Is Described: (1:1 to 3:7)

A. The land is settled, but what are they to do? (1:1-36)

Philippians 4:6--- Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God

1. Judah and Simeon defeat the Canaanites in their territories, including those dwelling in the mountains and in the valleys - Hebron, Debar, Kirjatharba, Jerusalem, Zepath, and Gaza (1:1-20)
2. They allowed the defeated people to remain in the land: (1:21)
3. The house of Joseph (Manasseh and Ephraim) settle the central portion of the land, but allowed some of the original inhabitants to remain: (1:22-30)
4. Asher, Zebulun, and Nephtali settle the northern portion of the promised land, but allowed some of the captive people to remain: (1:30-36)

B. Israel's spiritual condition is described: (2:1 to 3:7)

1. The Angel of the Lord rebukes the nation for not driving out their enemies and breaking down the idol altars.

- a. The people repent and weep (2:1-5) God reminds the people of the things he did for them.
- b. This brings them to repentance as godly sorrow works repentance

2 Corinthians 7:9-10---Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. ¹⁰ For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

- 2. Condition of the tribes during the life and until the passing of Joshua's generation: (2:6-10)
- 3. The second generation did evil and worshipped idols: (2:11-13) Note: Joshua 24:20-24
- 4. God expresses anger against Israel: (2:14-15);

Psalms 106:40-43---Therefore the wrath of the LORD was kindled against His people, So that He abhorred His own inheritance. ⁴¹ And He gave them into the hand of the Gentiles, And those who hated them ruled over them. ⁴² Their enemies also oppressed them, And they were brought into subjection under their hand. ⁴³ Many times He delivered them; But they rebelled in their counsel, And were brought low for their iniquity

- 5. Though angry with Israel, God raised up judges to deliver them: (2:16)
- 6. Israel would not learn but continued to worship other gods: (2:17-19)
 - a. This was one of the times when God overlooked and forgave the ignorance of idolatry (See Acts 17:22-31).
 - b. God now commands all men to repent and come to Him for forgiveness.
- 7. Canaanites were left in the land to prove Israel: (2:20 to 3:7)

II. The Period of the Judges Begins: (3:8 to 16:31)

- A. Judge **Othniel** and the Mesopotamian invasion is described: (3:8-11)
- B. Judge **Ehud** and the Moabite invasion is described: (3:12-30)
 - 1. Ehud was left-handed: (3:15)

2. Eglon, the Moabite king, was a very fat man: (3:17)
 3. Ehud stabbed Eglon with a dagger: (3:22-23)
- C. Judge **Shamgar** and Philistine invasion is described: (3:31)
- D. Judge **Deborah**, a prophetess, arises to lead an army: (4:1 to 5:31)
1. Jabin, King of Canaan (probably an alliance of several clans in the northern part of the land that recognized Jabin as their ruler), whose military general was Sisera, goes against Israel: (4:1-3)
 2. Deborah tells Barak to head up an army of 10,000 men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun to defeat Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army: (4:4-9)
 - a. Barak declines unless Deborah goes with him: (4:8)
 - b. She agrees to go, but says Sisera will be delivered into the hands of a woman: (4:9)
 3. Barak gains a great victory over Sisera and Jabin's army, but Sisera is killed by a Jael, a woman: (4:10-24)
 4. The victory song of Deborah and Barak is sung: (5:1-31)
 5. It is noted in Judges 5:2 that when the people offered themselves of their own free will then there are rewards

Psalms 18:46-47--- The LORD lives! Blessed *be* my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted. ⁴⁷ *It is* God who avenges me, And subdues the peoples under me;

2 Timothy 3:10-12---But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

1 John 5:4---For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our^[a] faith.

- E. Judge **Gideon** is appointed by God to lead the people to victory: (6:1 to 8:32)
1. Oppression by the Midianites, joined by the Amalekites, began: (6:1-6)
 2. A prophet was sent to rebuke the rebellious people: (6:7-10)

3. Gideon was commissioned by the Angel of the Lord to lead Israel: (6:11-24)
 4. The altar of Baal and its grove were destroyed by Gideon: (6:25-32)
 5. An army was called together under Gideon: (6:33-35)
 6. The miracle of the fleece encourages Gideon: (6:34-40)
 7. Gideon's great army was reduced from 32,000 to 300 men: (7:1-8)
 8. Gideon gains a great victory: (7:9 to 8:21)
 - a. Ephraim was consoled: (8:1-3)
 - b. Succoth and Penuel were destroyed: (8:4-17)
 - c. Zebah and Zalmuna, kings of Midian and Amalek were executed: (8:18-23)
 9. Gideon makes an ephod of gold, and Israel made it an idol: (8:24-32)
 10. Israel, while in confusion, turns again from God: (8:33-35) [See Psalms 78:1-11]
- F. Judge **Abimelech**, son of Gideon, is king (9:1 to 9:57)
1. Abimelech kills all the other sons of Gideon, except Jotham: (9:1-6)
 2. Jotham rebukes the people with his parable of the trees: (9:7-21)
 3. Abimelech defeats Shechem: (9:22-49)
 4. Abimelech is killed at Thebez: (9:50-57)
- G. Judge **Tola** arose to save Israel: (10:1-2)
1. He was the son of Puah, the son of Dodo.
 2. He judged Israel for twenty-three years.
- H. Judge **Jair**, a Gileadite: (10:3-5)
1. He had thirty sons, who had thirty donkeys, and lived in thirty cities.
 2. He judged Israel for twenty-two years.
- I. Judge **Jephthah** was a mighty man of valor: (10:6 to 12:7)

1. Israel did evil and served the Baals and Ashtoreths: (10:6)
2. Israel was subdued by the Philistines: (10:7-8)
3. Ammon joined the Philistines in discomfiting Israel (10:9)
4. Israel cried to God for deliverance: (10:10-14)
 - a. God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 12:28-29---Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹For our God *is* a consuming fire.
 - b. There is a price to pay for sin:

Numbers 32:23 ---But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.
5. Ammon invaded Israel: (10:15-18)
6. Jephthah was rejected by the men of Gilead because he was the son of a harlot: (11:1-3)
 - a. Jephthah was called to deliver Gilead from the Ammonites: (11:4-11)
 - b. Jephthah reasons with the King of Ammon but is rebuffed (11:12-28)
7. Jephthah defeated Ammon: (11:29)
 - a. Jephthah made an unwise vow: (11:30-33)
 - b. Jephthah's vow resulted in his giving his daughter as a sacrifice in full service to the LORD, which resulted in her having no children, a shame for women in that day: (11:34-40)
8. Jephthah's war with Ephraim resulted in Ephraim's defeat: (12:1-7)
 - a. This also resulted inner-tribal warfare: (12:1-4)
 - b. The Ephraimites were unable to say "Sibboleth": (12:5-6)
9. Jephthah judged Israel for six years, and his death is recorded: (12:7)
- J. Judge **Ibzan** had thirty sons and judged Israel for seven years: (12:8-10)

- K. Judge **Elon** was a Zebulunite who judged Israel for ten years: (12:11-12)
- L. Judge **Abdon** had forty sons and judged Israel for eight years: (12:13-15)
- M. Judge **Samson**'s life is described in greater detail: (13:1 to 16:31)
1. Israel was defeated and ruled by the Philistines: (13:1)
 2. The Angel of the LORD appears to the wife of a man named Manoah and promises she will bear a son who is to be a Nazirite: (13:2-7)
 3. The Angel of the Lord reappeared to Manoah and his wife and confirmed the promise: (13:8-14)
 4. Manoah offered a sacrifice to the LORD: (13:15-23)
 5. Samson is born: (13:24-25)
 6. Samson desires a Philistine wife (14:1-4)
 - a. He killed a lion: (14:5-7)
 - b. He finds honey in the carcass of the lion: (14:8-9)
 - c. He provides a feast: (14:10-11)
 - d. He gives a riddle of the lion and honey: (14:12-18)
 - e. His wife tells the secret of the riddle to the sons of her people: (14:17)
 - e. He paid his debt at the expense of the 30 men of Ashkelon: (14:19)
 - f. His Philistine wife was given to his best man: (14:20)
 7. Samson burns the Philistine's corn fields: (15:1-8)
 8. Samson kills 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of an ass: (15:9-19)
 9. Samson judged Israel for 20 years: (15:20)
 10. Samson carried away the gates and gate post of Gaza: (16:1-3)
 11. Samson fell in love with Delilah, a Philistine woman: (16:4-20)
 - a. Pride and ignorance began to rule his heart:

Proverbs 8:13--- The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

Proverbs 16:18---Pride *goes* before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 29:23 ---A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor

b. It cost him his freedom and strength.

12. Samson's death is detailed in which he kills more Philistines than in his life time: (16:21-31)

III. Israel Continues to Decline Further into Idolatry: (17:1 to 21:25)

A. Micah and the Danites contribute the downward trend away from God: (17:1 to 18:31)

1. A man named Micah, a man of Ephraim, restores 1100 pieces of silver he had stolen from his mother (17:1-3)
2. Micah used silver to make idols and then made his son a priest: (17:4-6)
3. A wandering Levite was hired to replace Micah's son as priest: (17:7-13)
4. Five men from the tribe of Dan were sent to find new territory: (18:1-2)
5. The five men lodge with Micah and inquire by his priest: (18:3-6)
6. The five man discover Laish in the territory of Naphtali and find it desirable: (18:7)
7. The five spies recommend taking Laish in Naphtali: (18:8-12)
8. They come again to the house of Micah in Ephraim and entice his priest to go with them and steal his idols: (18:13-21)
9. Micah pursues them to recover his property but fails to do so: (18:22-26)
10. The Danites capture Laish and change its name to Dan: (18:27-29)
11. The Danites worship Micah's idol god: (18:30-31)

B. Gibeah becomes outraged: (19:1 - 20:30)

1. The Levite goes to Bethlehem to bring his wife home: (19:1-10)
 2. He spends the night in Gibeah of Benjamin: (19:11-21)
 3. Abuse and death of the Levite's wife (concubine) is recorded: (19:22-28)
 4. The Levite cut his wife's dead body into 12 pieces and sent a piece to each of the 12 tribes to let them know in horror what had happened to her: (19:29-30)
 5. The tribes of Israel rose up as one against the tribe of Benjamin and killed all of them except for 600 who hid themselves: (20:1-30)
- C. The tribe of Benjamin is restored: (21:1-25)
1. Israel mourns the loss that occurred in the tribe of Benjamin: (21:1-7)
 2. A plan is devised for providing wives for Benjamin's 600 survivors: (21:8-24)
 3. They gave to the men of Benjamin the women of Jabesh Gilead (400 virgins) who were not killed by the edge of the sword; however, they were not enough.
 4. They were to go to Shiloh, lie in wait, and then take enough wives for themselves.
- D. The problem: "...every man did that which was right in his own eyes." (21:25)

Conclusion:

1. God was always faithful; however, the people were broken and unfaithful because of idolatry.
2. It is a challenge to stay faithful in an unfaithful world.