

Judges – Why Does God Want Us to Know This History?

1. When reading the Bible, always keep in mind what divine covenant is in the background. This will help you understand why God acts in the manner that He does. Cite the covenant that the angel of the Lord referring to. What is the “angel of the Lord / Yahweh?”

1) Then **the angel of Yahweh** came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, “I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land which I have sworn to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My **covenant** with you, 2) and as for you, you shall cut no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.’ But you have not listened to My voice; what is this you have done? 3) Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they will become as thorns in your sides, and their gods will become a snare to you.’” (Jdg 2:1-3, LSB)

2. What does “judges” mean? What does a lexicon tell you?

Then Yahweh raised up **judges** who saved them from the hands of those who plundered them. (Jdg 2:16, LSB)

3. Summarize the cyclical pattern that is seen throughout the book of Judges. Mark up the text!

7) Thus the sons of Israel did what was evil in the eyes of Yahweh and forgot Yahweh their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth. 8) Then the anger of Yahweh burned against Israel, so that He sold them into the hands of Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the sons of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim eight years. 9) Then the sons of Israel cried to Yahweh, and Yahweh raised up a savior for the sons of Israel to save them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. 10) And the Spirit of Yahweh came upon him, and he judged Israel. And he went out to war, and Yahweh gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand. So his hand was strong against Cushan-rishathaim. 11) Then the land was quiet for forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died. (Jdg 3:7-11, LSB)

In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes. (Jdg 17:6; 21:25, LSB)

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4. One lesson from the book of Judges is the importance of godly leadership. What is this leadership?

For I have known him, so that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of Yahweh to do righteousness and justice, so that Yahweh may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.” (Gen 18:19, LSB)

The way of Yahweh is a stronghold to the one with integrity, But ruin to the workers of iniquity. (Prov 10:29, LSB)

The way of the wicked is an abomination to Yahweh, But He loves one who pursues righteousness. (Prov 15:9, LSB)

All the ways of a man are pure in his own sight, But Yahweh weighs the motives. (Prov 16:2, LSB)

Our God is a God of salvation, and escape from death belongs to the LORD my Lord. (Ps 68:20, CSB)

How happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk according to the LORD's instruction! (Ps 119:1, CSB)

Teach me, LORD, the meaning of your statutes, and I will always keep them. Help me understand your instruction, and I will obey it and follow it with all my heart. (Ps 119:33-34, CSB)