



The book of Joshua ends with God's people being obedient to Him. The book of Judges is the tragic sequel to the book of Joshua. They are disobedient, idolatrous, and often defeated. Judges is a history of relationship between God and His people. There is a tension evident throughout the book of Judges. Will God's holiness and his demand for obedience override His promises to Israel? Or will His unconditional promises that He had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob mean that He will just overlook their sin? The answer given in Judges is, "neither" and "both." A lot of is revealed about the character of God in this book. We would do well to pay close attention to these characteristics in order to get to know our God.

The book of Judges is formatted into a collection of "hero stories." God raises up specific judges to lead the nation. These stories have a very clear cycle that repeats itself over and over.

- (1) The Israelites do what is Evil in the sight of the Lord.
- (2) God gives Consequences for their wickedness. They are conquered and ruled by another nation.
- (3) The Israelites call out to God.
- (4) God sends a judge to deliver them.
- (5) After most of the "hero stories" there is a period of Peace.

The book of Judges "gets real." It does not shy away from telling the failures of the people in it. There are shocking accounts of violence, sexual abuse, idolatry, and misuse of power. These details reveal true human nature apart from God. Many of us can relate to the repetitive cycle of the Israelites relationship with God. The book of Judges paints a bleak picture of human nature, but it also paints a beautiful picture of God's faithful power and mercy to deliver His people from the consequences of their failures. God is working out His plan, and it will not be thwarted, even by human weakness and failure.

You may be asking, "What can Judges teach me about God and my relationship with Him?"

**Theme: When you fail, God is faithful to restore you.**

What is the process by which God restored the Israelites repeatedly?

I. When you are seduced by the world, God is faithful to Chasten you.

- A. Worldly culture consistently proves to appear attractive to the people of God. (2:1-2)
- B. God consistently proves to chasten those whom He loves. (2:3,20-22 cf. Hebrews 12:6-7)

Discussion: How is God's faithfulness seen through the consequences that He gave to Israel? \_\_\_\_\_

II. When you repeatedly disobey, God repeatedly delivers you.

- A. God repeatedly delivers His people because He is full of compassion. (2:16,18)
  - God used consequences to bring His people to a place of repentance.
  - After repentance was evident, God gave deliverance.

Discussion: How do we balance repeated disobedience in the life of a believer with 1 John 3:8-9 and 2 Cor. 13:5? \_\_\_\_\_

- B. God repeatedly delivered His people because of His promise to Abraham. (2:1)
 

What characteristic of God do we see because of the above truth? \_\_\_\_\_

This is a specific promise to the people of Israel. What New Testament promise of repeated deliverance has God given to believers? \_\_\_\_\_

Text

III. When you need a Deliverer, God provides One.

- A. Without a deliverer, the people did that which was right in their own eyes. (21:25)
  - The Old Testament has pictures of salvation woven throughout its pages.
  - What characteristic of man (ourselves) do we see because of the above statement? \_\_\_\_\_
  - God would fulfill his promise of a King for Israel. (Gen. 17:6)
- B. God has provided a Deliverer for all who believe in Him. (1 Timothy 6:14-15)