

Sermon Outline

“THE ISRAELITES DID EVIL IN THE EYES OF THE LORD ...” | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: Judges 1:1-8, 2:6-3:6 (p.338)

Deep Dive (730-9pm, Thursday 3 April, on the reliability of Scripture)

Q. How bad is humanity?

1. The bigger and better story we belong to (1:1-8)

Genesis	Exodus	Lev/Num/Dt	Joshua	Judges
>>>>				
God's promise to Abraham (Isaac, Jacob & Joseph)	Moses leads Israel out of slavery in Egypt	40 years wandering in the desert	After Moses dies, Joshua leads into Promised Land	After Joshua dies, who will lead next?

Gen 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 2 “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Jos 1:1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2 “Moses my servant is dead ...”

Jdg 1:1 After the death of Joshua, the Israelites asked the LORD, “Who of us is to go up first to fight against the Canaanites?” 2 The LORD answered, “Judah shall go up; I have given the land into their hands.”

2. A vicious circle (2:6-3:6)

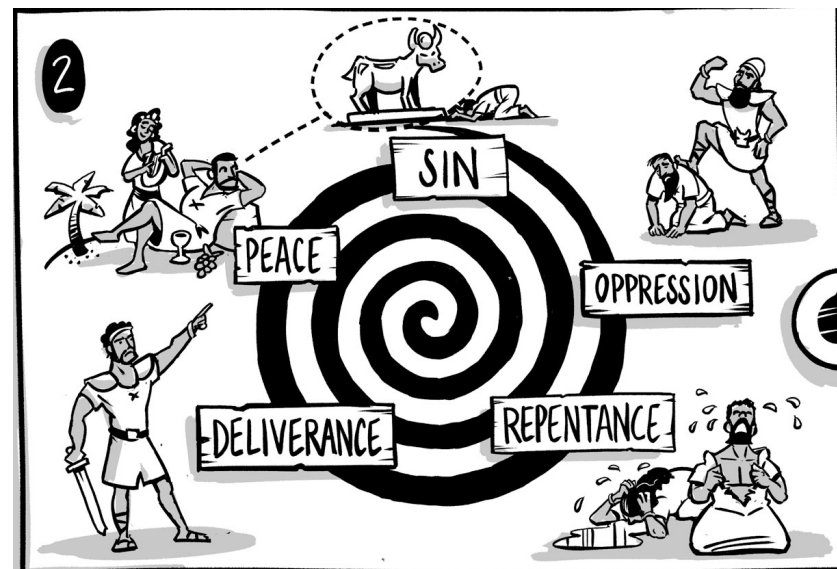
- “everyone serves something (someone)”

Jdg 2:11 Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals
- cf 2:11; 3:7, 3:12, 4:1, 6:1, 10:6, 13:1

- sin = lawbreaking => ingratitude => betrayal

- “judge” ≠ magistrate = military leader (“saviour” (2:16) or “deliverer” (3:9, 3:15)

Jdg 2:18 ... The LORD relented because of their groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them



(Source: The Bible Project)

- not just a **vicious circle** but a **downward spiral**

- God's sovereign control

3. Reading Judges today ...

Judges: who will lead us?		
9/3	“The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD ...”	Judges 1-3
16/3	Unexpected judges in Israel: Deborah/Barak	Judges 3-5
23/3	Not-so-good judges in Israel: Gideon	Judges 6-12
30/3	Frankly-pretty-bad judges in Israel: Samson	Judges 13-16
6/4	“In those days Israel had no king ...”	Judges 17-21
13/4	When Ruth met Boaz ...	Ruth

Q1. (anthropology) why did the Israelites keep turning away from God?

Q2. (theology) why didn't God give up on the Israelites?

Ex 34:6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

Homework: read Judges 3:7-5:31 (Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah/Barak)