

- I. Judges Part 2
- a. Purpose: In this session we shall continue our survey of the book of Judges by looking closer at the content within the book Judges.
 - b. Tribal consideration
 - i. Nearly each tribe in Israel had a judge come forth though no tribe had more than one that is mentioned in the book of Judges.¹
 - ii. Judges “have been arranged geographically by tribes, ranging from Judah in the south (Othniel, 3:9) to Benjamin (Ehud, 3:15), to Ephraim in the center (Deborah, 4: 5), and then to Manasseh (Gideon, 6:15), Gilead (Jephthah, 11: 1) and finally to Dan in the north (Samson, 13:2). This corresponds to the order the tribes are presented in the prologue (1:1–36).”²
 - c. Reminder of the big picture outline of the book
 - i. Israel's Failure in the Holy War (Judges 1:1-3:6)
 - ii. Cycles of Apostasy and Deliverance (3:7-16:31)
 - iii. Depths of the Failure of Israel (17-21)
 - d. The importance of Gideon structurally in the book of Judges
 - i. Point: Of the seven major judges Gideon occupies a central position in the main body of the book
 - ii. Structurally³
 1. A Othniel (Judges 3:7-11)
 - a. B Ehud (Judges 3:12-31)
 - i. C Deborah, Barak, Jael (Judges 4-5)
 1. D Gideon (Judges 6:1-8:32)
 - ii. C1 Abimelech (Judges 8:33-10:5)
 - b. B1 Jephthah (Judges 10:6-12:15)
 2. A1 Samson (Judges 13-16)
 - iii. Gideon is also the turning point for the book of Judges⁴
 1. Gideon is the only judge who went against idolatry.
 2. Gideon’s own moral decline reflect the nation’s spiritual decline as a whole.
 3. There were forty years of peace after Gideon's victory but no more period of peace is mentioned after him (Judges 3:11, 30; 4:17; 6:23-24) but instead increase conflicts is mentioned instead.
 - e. Looking more closely at the cycles of Apostasy and Deliverance (3:7-16:31)
 - i. Othniel (3:7– 11)

¹ Mark Rooker, “The Book of Joshua” in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Locations 10493-10496.

² Mark Rooker, “The Book of Joshua” in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Locations 10493-10496.

³ Mark Rooker, “The Book of Joshua” in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Locations 10497-10502.

⁴ Mark Rooker, “The Book of Joshua” in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Locations 10502-10505.

1. Othniel was “was from the tribe of Judah, and he was one of the few exemplary judges.”⁵
2. Othniel account has all the parts with the cycle of judges:
 - a. Sin of the sons of Israel (3:7)
 - b. God's wrath and punishment (3:8a)
 - c. Foreign oppressors (3:8b)
 - d. God's mercy by sending a Judge (3:9)
 - e. Deliverance (3:10-11)
 - f. Repetition of the sins of the sons of Israel (3:12)
- ii. Ehud (3:12–31)
 1. During the time of Ehud Israel sinned against the Lord and God used Eglon the king of Moab to punish Israel: “*Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the Lord*” (v.12)
 - a. Eglon was able to get an alliance with the Ammonites and the Amalekites against Israel (v.13)
 - b. Israel served under Elgon for eighteen years (v.14)
 2. The details of Ehud’s actions are described in Judges 3:15-30.
 - a. Ehud was left-handed which was mentioned twice (v.15, 21)
 - b. Ehud killed Eglon while he was in the “restroom” which scenario allowed Ehud to escape alive from his assassination of the king.
- iii. Deborah (4-5)
 1. Deborah was the only female Judge.
 2. Jabin king of Canaan oppressed Israel for twenty years (v.2-3)
 3. Here we see problems within Israel arising
 - a. Cowardly men: The two women mentioned, Deborah with her leadership and Jael with her heroic feat of killing of Sisera in verse 21 are contrasted with Barak’s hesitation (Judges 4:6-9) and Gideon’s doubt, testing of the Lord with the fleece and fear (Judges 6:11-40).
 - b. Cowardly disunity: In Deborah’s Song she notes how certain tribes did not participate in the battle (Judges 5:15-18, 23).
- iv. Gideon (6-8)
 1. Famous for leading the original “300” with the selection and battle described in details in Judges 7.
 2. Gideon as a Judge reach the greatest moments of all the Judges for unlike the other Judges he destroyed the altar of Baal and cut down the Asherah (Judges 6:28)

⁵ Mark Rooker, “The Book of Joshua” in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Locations 10537-10538.

3. Yet Gideon's story also reached a low: "And yet, in the end Gideon proved not to be a good example for the nation, for he led the nation into idolatry, fashioning a golden ephod from the people's gold" in **Judges 8:24-27** that echoes the Golden Calf.
- v. Jephthah (**10:6-12:7**)
 1. Fought against the Ammonites.
 2. Infamous for unwise vow (**11:31-40**)
- vi. Samson (**13-16**)
 1. Much details about Samson in the book.
 2. He was a very flawed character
 - a. He was with foreign ungodly women (**Judges 14:1-20; 16:1**)
 - b. Though he was the only judge that was a Nazirite vow (**Judges 13:4**, see also **Numbers 6:1-21**) which involved being discipline yet we see Samson eats a dead lion (**Judges 14:8-9**)
- f. Implications for the Christian life
 - i. Know that our heroes if they are not God and Jesus, is going to be sinful.
 - ii. We need to see the sinfulness of man in order to truly understand God's grace.
 - iii. We should long for Jesus as our "Judge" and Hero.