

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 12-4-11 PM NOTES  
"JUDGES"  
#9 in Series, "The Glory of God in the Old Testament"

The cycle of nations: Bondage → Spiritual faith → Great Courage → Liberty → Abundance → Leisure → Selfishness → Complacency → Apathy → Dependence → Weakness → Bondage

The seven cycles of Israel in the book of Judges: Rebellion → Retribution → Repentance → Rescue → Rest

**Judges 21:25 (NKJV)** "In those days *there was* no king in Israel; everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes."

**Jeremiah 2:7 (NKJV)** "I brought you into a bountiful country, to eat its fruit and its goodness. But when you entered, you defiled My land and made My heritage an abomination."

I. Apathy (Chapter 1-2)

**Joshua 23:12-13 (ESV)** "<sup>12</sup>For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and make marriages with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, <sup>13</sup>know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations before you, but they shall be a snare and a trap for you, a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good ground that the Lord your God has given you."

"So it was that the Israelites gave in and sank to the level of the people they were commanded to destroy. The Canaanites taught the Israelites how to plant their crops properly, how to fertilize the soil, as well as the way to sacrifice to their demonic gods, so the next spring—sure enough—they found that the crops were wonderful. The Israelites thought, *Hey! There must be something to this fertility god business. We'd better worship these gods after all.* They forsook the God of Israel and bowed down to the Baals and Ashtoreths. Now what is not recorded here is that these were sex deities and the worship of them involved not only bowing down before stone idols but also engaging in obscene sexual practices. So Israel soon sank into idolatry and gross immorality."  
—Ray Steadman

II. Apostasy (Chapter 3-16)

A. Othniel—Mesopotamia (3:1-11)

B. Ehud and Shamgar—Moab (3:12-31)

C. Deborah and Barak—Canaanites (Chapter 4-5)

D. Gideon–Midianites (Chapter 6-8)

**Judges 8:26-27 (HCSB)** “<sup>26</sup>The weight of the gold earrings he requested was about 43 pounds of gold, in addition to the crescent ornaments and ear pendants, the purple garments on the kings of Midian, and the chains on the necks of their camels. <sup>27</sup>Gideon made an ephod from all this and put it in Ophrah, his hometown. Then all Israel prostituted themselves with it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his household.”

E. Abimelech, Tola, and Jair–Men of Shechem (9:1-10:5)

**Judges 9:22 (ESV)** “Abimelech ruled over Israel three years.”

F. Jephthah–Ammon (10:6-12:15)

G. Samson–Philistines (Chapter 13-16)

III. Anarchy (Chapter 17-21)

A. Anarchy in Religious Life (Chapter 17-18)

B. Anarchy in Moral Life (Chapter 19)

C. Anarchy in Political Life (Chapter 20-21)