

- **The Time Of The Judges Reminds Us Not Only Of Israel's \_\_\_\_\_; But God's \_\_\_\_\_.**

Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. <sup>5</sup>She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. <sup>6</sup>She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: 'Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. Judges 4:4-6 (NIV)

When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior." <sup>13</sup>"Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." <sup>14</sup>The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

Judges 6:12-14 (NIV)

Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him. Judges 16:20 (NIV)

But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

Judges 16:22 (NIV)

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning [to Me] and resting [in Me] you shall be saved; in quietness and in [trusting] confidence shall be your strength. But you would not, <sup>16</sup>And you said, No! We will speed [our own course] on horses! Therefore you will speed [in flight from your enemies]! You said, We will ride upon swift steeds [doing our own way]! Therefore will they who pursue you be swift, [so swift that] <sup>17</sup>One thousand of you will flee at the threat of one of them; at the threat of five you will flee till you are left like a beacon *or* a flagpole on the top of a mountain, and like a signal on a hill. <sup>18</sup>And therefore the Lord [earnestly] waits [expecting, looking, and longing] to be gracious to you; and therefore He lifts Himself up, that He may have mercy on you *and* show loving-kindness to you. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) are all those who [earnestly] wait for Him, who expect *and* look *and* long for Him [for His victory, His favor, His love, His peace, His joy, and His matchless, unbroken companionship]! Isaiah 30:15-18 (AMP)



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"Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." <sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods!.. <sup>18</sup>...We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God." <sup>21</sup>But the people said to Joshua, "No! We will serve the LORD." <sup>22</sup>Then Joshua said, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD." "Yes, we are witnesses," they replied. <sup>23</sup>"Now then," said Joshua, "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." <sup>24</sup>And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and obey him." Joshua 24:14-16;18b;21-24 (NIV)

### **Lessons From The Time Of The Judges:**

- **Faith Is More Than \_\_\_\_\_; It Is Words Accompanied With \_\_\_\_\_.**

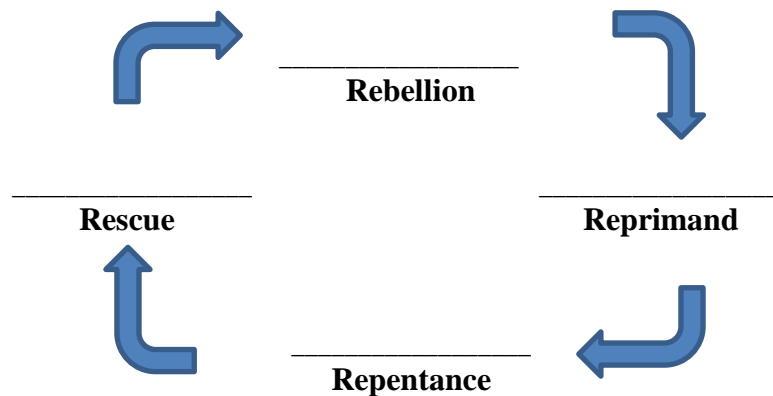
After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel. <sup>11</sup>Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. <sup>12</sup>They forsook the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the LORD's anger <sup>13</sup>because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. <sup>14</sup>In his anger against Israel the LORD gave them into the hands of raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. <sup>15</sup>Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the LORD was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress.

Judges 2:10-15 (NIV)

## Judge = “To \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_”

Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. <sup>17</sup>Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. They quickly turned from the ways of their ancestors, who had been obedient to the LORD’s commands. <sup>18</sup>Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD relented because of their groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them. <sup>19</sup>But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their ancestors, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

Judges 2:16-19 (NIV)



## • Today’s Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ Sets The Stage For Tomorrow’s \_\_\_\_\_.

When Israel became strong, they pressed the Canaanites into forced labor but never drove them out completely. Judges 1:28 (NIV)  
See: Judges 1:19-36

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Judges 2:11-13 (NIV)

## • When My Morality Is Formed By The \_\_\_\_\_ And Not The \_\_\_\_\_, I Forfeit God’s Blessing.

Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the LORD was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress.  
Judges 2:15 (NIV)

## They were guided by the gods of “I \_\_\_\_\_” and “I \_\_\_\_\_”.

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

Judges 17:6 (NIV)

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

Judges 21:25 (NIV)

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. <sup>21</sup>Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.  
Isaiah 5:20-21 (NIV)

“When you forget the Word of the LORD,  
you will forsake the LORD of the Word.”

## • God Uses \_\_\_\_\_ People And Unconventional \_\_\_\_\_ To Win The Battle.

Othniel 3:7-11

Shamgar 3:31

Ehud 3:12-30

Deborah 4:1-5:31

Gideon 6:1-8:35

Jair 10:3-5

Tola 10:1-2

Jephthah 11:1-12:7

Ibzan 12:8-10

Elon 12:11-12

Abdon 12:13-15

Samson 13:1-16:31