



God in the Chaos : A Study of Judges & Ruth Failure to Remember

Judges 2.10-23

June 10, 2018

Discussion Notes & Questions

The Big Picture:

People forget. God doesn't.

Main Points:

1. God was right: the Canaanite's gods were traps and snares.
2. It is God who saves.
3. Covenant and obedience (should) transcend generations.

Discussion Questions:

- 1a. As you read through the text for today, summarize your reading in one word. Why is this word important for understanding this passage?
- 1b. In what ways does today's story prove God's prediction that the gods of the Canaanites would become "traps and snares" to the people of Israel (2.3)?
- 2a. What reasons can you think of that would cause an entire generation of people to not "know" God (2.10)? How do you think this is still the case today?
- 2b. What is your reaction to reading that the Lord was angry with Israel? Is this inconsistent with God's love and mercy? Is it appropriate for God to act this way? Why do you feel this is the case?
- 2c. What are some things (one might even call them "gods") that distract people from their relationship with God today?
- 3a. How have you tried to live a life of faith that depends not on the leadership or faith of other people, but seeks to discover your own ways to be a follower of Jesus?
- 3b. How can we remember God and the things he has done?
- 3c. In what ways have you cried out to God and he rescued you?

Take Away:

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3 10 And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.

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Israel's Unfaithfulness

11 And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. 12 And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger. 13 They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. 14 So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. 15 Whenever they marched out, the hand of the LORD was against them for harm, as the LORD had warned, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress.

The LORD Raises Up Judges

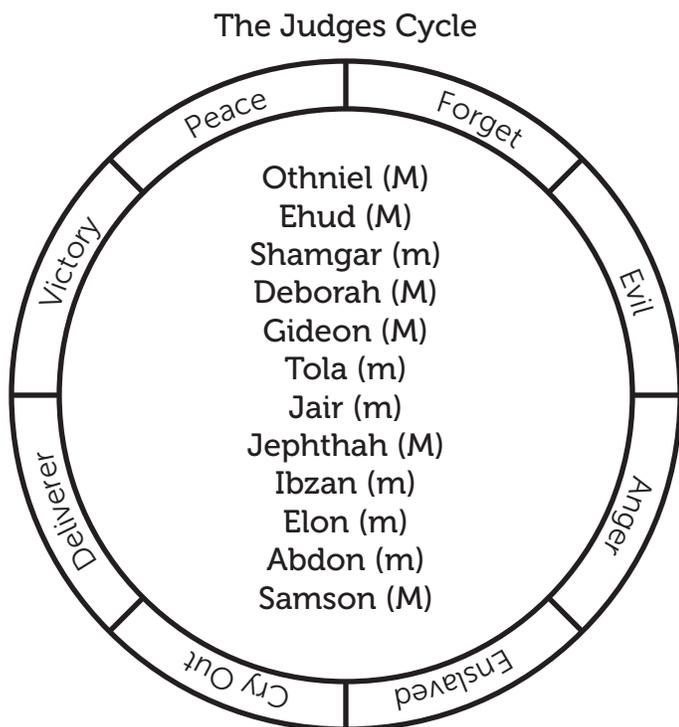
16 Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. 17 Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so. 18 Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. 19 But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways. 20 So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he said, "Because this people have transgressed my covenant that I commanded their fathers and have not obeyed my voice, 21 I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died, 22 in order to test Israel by them, whether they will take care to walk in the way of the LORD as their fathers did, or not." 23 So the LORD left those nations, not driving them out quickly, and he did not give them into the hand of Joshua.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). (Jdg 2:10–23). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

The Judges Cycle

(Best example of this cycle is the story of Othniel in Judges 3.7-11. NOTE: Not all judge stories contain all elements of the cycle, nor are they always in this specific order.)

- I. The leader dies and a subsequent generation of people forget God
- II. The people do evil in the eyes of the Lord
- III. The anger of the Lord burns against them and he sells them into (gives them over to) slavery
- IV. They are enslaved and serve their oppressors for X years
- V. The people cry out to the Lord
- VI. God raises up a judge
- VII. The judge defeats the oppressors
- VIII. There is peace in the land for X years



For an example of this cycle, see Judges 3.7-11