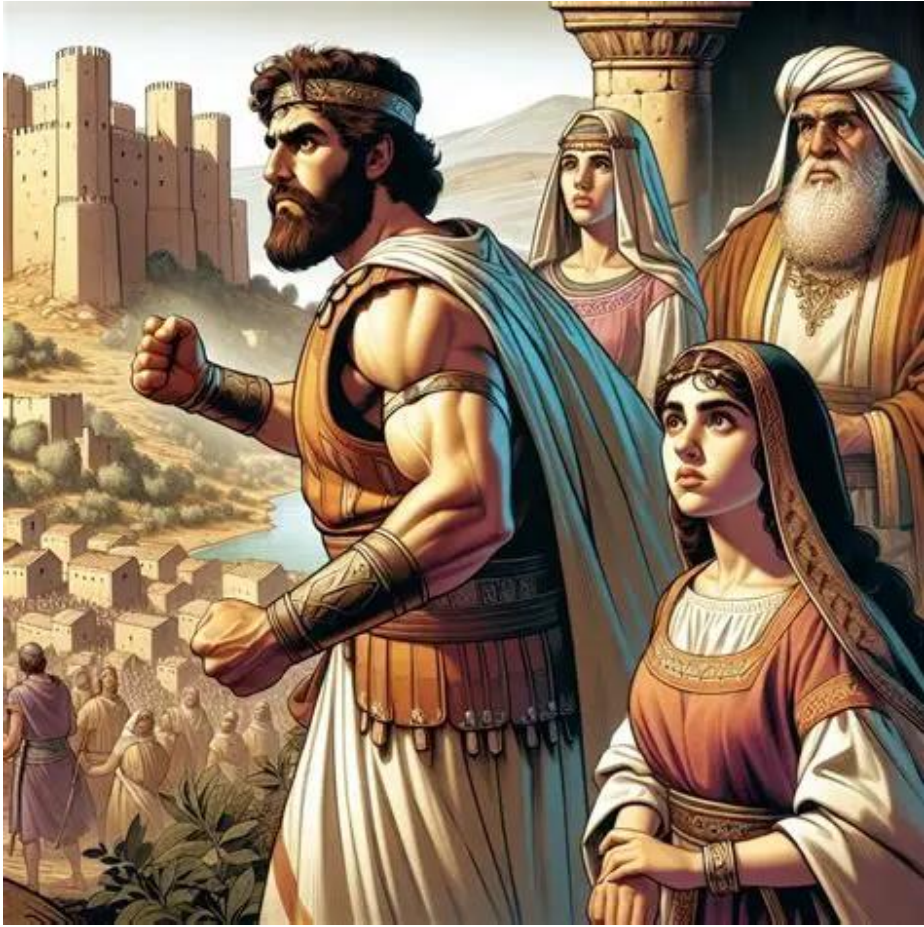




The book of Judges: Assigned to Deliver...

Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them... **Judges 2:16**

The book of Judges...

- Following the death of Joshua, the Israelites settled in the Promised Land but failed to fully drive out the Canaanite inhabitants, leading to cycles of idolatry and oppression.
- The Judges of Israel were leaders raised by God to deliver the Israelites from oppression and to administer justice. The role of a judge in Israel was multifaceted, encompassing military leadership, judicial authority, and spiritual guidance.
- The judges were not kings or prophets, they served as instruments of God's justice and mercy, calling the people back to covenant faithfulness. They were foreshadows of Jesus the ultimate deliverer and a reminder that the Lord can use us for His every good work.

Israel's Unfaithfulness... Judges 2

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. **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 Ashtaroath. **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... Judges 2

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.

Judges of Israel...

Name of Judge	Tribe	Notable Feature	Oppressors	Years	Judges
Othniel	Judah	First judge of Israel	King Cushan (Aram)	8years opp. 40 years peace	3:7-11
Ehud	Benjamin	Assassinated Eglon, king of Moab	King Eglon (Moab)	18years opp. 80 years peace	3:12-30
Shamgar	Unknown	Killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad	Philistines	Not mentioned	3:31
Deborah	Ephraim	Prophetess and leader in battle against Sisera	King Jabin & General Sisera (Canaan)	20years opp. 40 years peace	4-5
Gideon	Manasseh	Led 300 men to defeat the Midianites	Generals Zebah & Zalmunnah (Midian)	7years opp. 40 years	6-8
Tola	Issachar	Judge after Abimelek, brought peace to Israel	Not mentioned	23 years	10:1-2

Judges of Israel...

Name of Judge	Tribe	Notable Feature	Oppressors	Years	Judges
Jair	Gilead	Had 30 sons and ruled 30 towns in Gilead	Not mentioned	22 years	10:3-5
Jephthah	Gilead	Made a tragic vow after victory	Philistines, Ammonites, Ephraimites	18years opp. 6 years peace	10:6-12:7
Ibzan	Zebulun	Had 30 sons and 30 daughters	Not mentioned	7 years	12:8-10
Elon	Zebulun	Judged Israel during a peaceful period	Not mentioned	10 years	12:11-12
Abdon	Ephraim	Had 40 sons and 30 grandsons	Not mentioned	8 years	12:13-15
Samson	Dan	Known for his strength; fought against the Philistines	Philistines	40years opp. 20 years	13-16

Takeaways...

- The period of the judges highlights the consequences of Israel's disobedience and the faithfulness of God in raising deliverers despite the people's unfaithfulness. "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25)
- Matthew 1:21 states, "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." This verse encapsulates the mission of Christ as our Ultimate Deliverer.
- According to Ephesians 2:10, in Christ we are the workmanship of God prepared for good works. In Christ we are assigned as light to darkness. In Christ God uses us to quench the works of the devil.

Conclusion...

The book of Judges teaches us the faithfulness of God even in the face of disobedience from His children. It makes us understand that God delights in the deliverance of His children and established Christ as the ultimate deliverer.

In Christ, God can use us to deliver our families, friends, cities and nations!!

Let us pray...