

REL.

CONDITION OF THE HEART

JUDGES

INTRODUCTION TO JUDGES

CHEONG SENG GEE | 1 JULY 2018



upliftpost

**He was asked a
difficult question at a
job interview... His
answer left me
stunned!**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GydbT2MyV_I

The interview asked the applicant -

“You are driving in your car on a stormy night. Then you pass by a bus stop and saw three people waiting there. First is a woman of your dreams and second one is an old friend of who saved of your life and the third one is an old lady who is very sick, and needed to go to the hospital.”

He Further Said, **"And If You Had One Seat In your Car, Who Would You Offer Your Ride To?"**

The candidate was hired out of 200 applicants and the job interviewer had asked the very same question to everyone in which they all gave a disappointing answer. However, the guy who was asked the same question didn't had any trouble answering the question.

He Simply Said...

" I Would Give My Car Keys To My Old Friend, Let Him Drive The Old Lady To The Hospital, And Stay Behind To Wait For the Bus With The Woman Of My Dreams."

INTRODUCTION TO JUDGES

1. Timeline of Judges

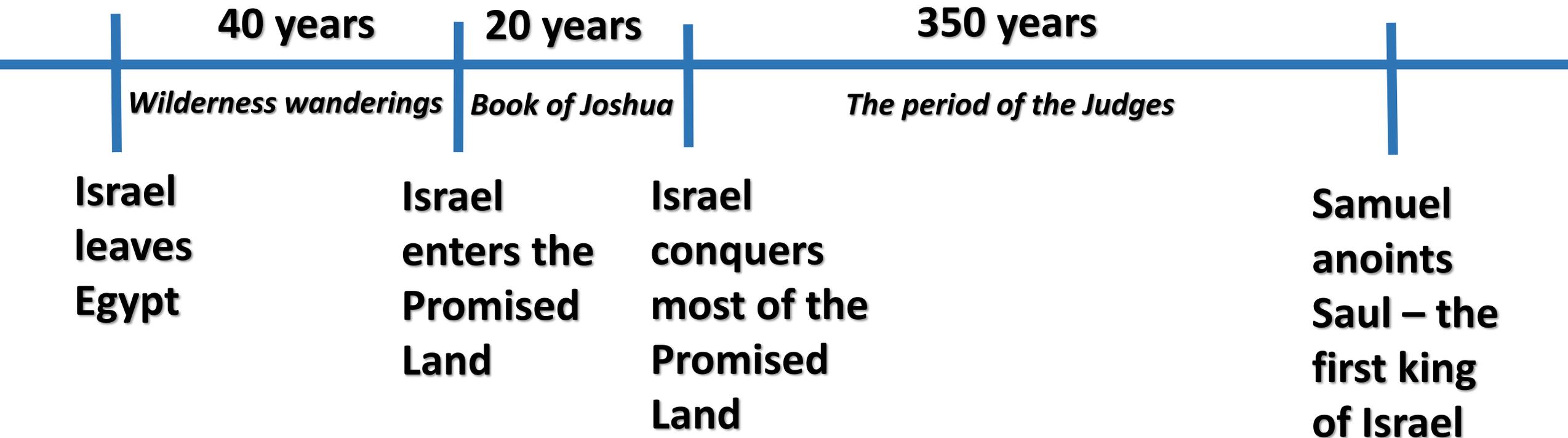
2. Author - Samuel (Judg 21:25), Jebusites in control of Jerusalem (Judg 1:21)

3. Judges – Who? Why?

4. Incomplete obedience and the cycle of the Judges

5. A book of failures

TIMELINE OF MOSES, JOSHUA AND JUDGES (12+1 pax)



Judges 21:25 (NIV)

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

WHO WERE THE JUDGES?

- No provision after Moses and Joshua for a leader
- But God raised military champions for short-lived purpose
- Unlike kings
- Why? A theocracy – God's direct rule in their lives

CHRONOLOGY of ISRAEL'S JUDGES

Judge	Nation who oppressed them	Years of peace after deliverance
Othniel	Mesopotamia	40
Ehud	Moabites	80
Shamgar	Philistines	?
Deborah (Barak)	Canaanites	40
Gideon	Midianites	40
Tola	?	23
Jair	?	22
Jephthah	Ammonites	6
Ibzan	?	7
Elon	?	10
Abdon	?	8
Samson	Philistines	20

Deuteronomy 7:1-4 (NIV)

When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and **drives out** before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—

² and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy.

³ Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons,

⁴ for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.

Incomplete Obedience – Seeds of Destruction?

Judges 1:21 (NIV)

²¹ The **Benjamites**, however, did not drive out the Jebusites, who were living in Jerusalem; to this day the Jebusites live there with the Benjamites.

Judges 1:27 (NIV)

²⁷ But **Manasseh** did not drive out the people of Beth Shan or Taanach or Dor or Ibleam or Megiddo and their surrounding settlements, for the Canaanites were determined to live in that land.

Incomplete Obedience – Seeds of Destruction?

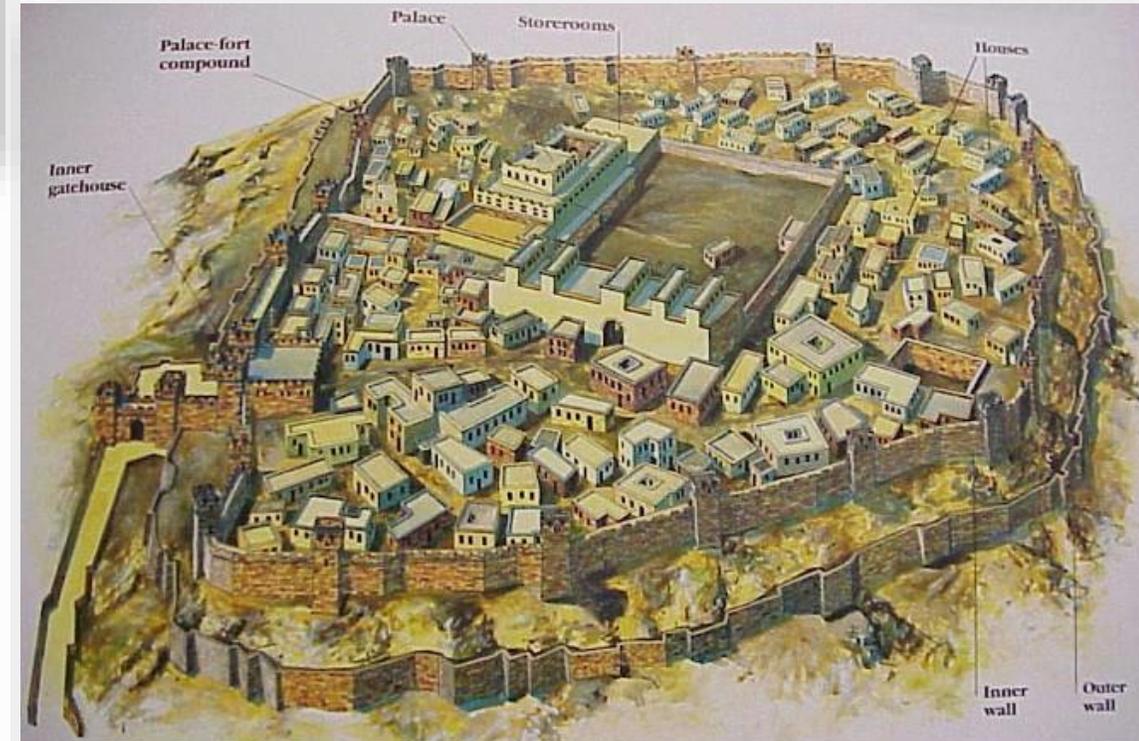
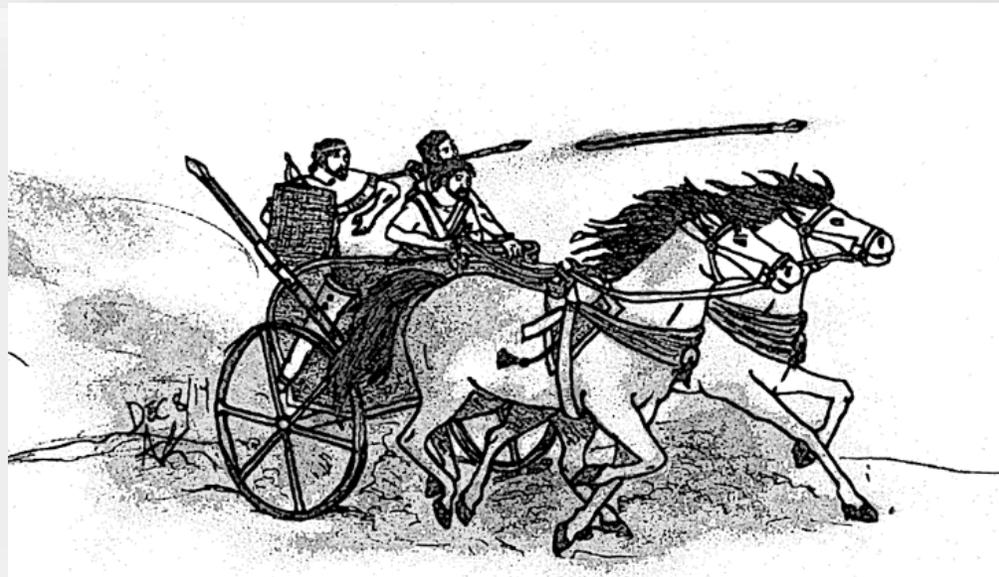
Judges 1:29-33 (NIV)

²⁹ Nor did **Ephraim** drive out the Canaanites living in Gezer, but the Canaanites continued to live there among them. ³⁰ Neither did **Zebulun** drive out the Canaanites living in Kitron or Nahalol, so these Canaanites lived among them, but Zebulun did subject them to forced labor. ³¹ Nor did **Asher** drive out those living in Akko or Sidon or Ahlab or Akzib or Helbah or Aphek or Rehob. ³² The Asherites lived among the Canaanite inhabitants of the land because they did not drive them out. ³³ Neither did **Naphtali** drive out those living in Beth Shemesh or Beth Anath; but the Naphtalites too lived among the Canaanite inhabitants of the land, and those living in Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath became forced laborers for them.

INCOMPLETE OBEDIENCE

- The Lord was with the men of Judah (Judg 1:1-12, 17-20)
- But the Canaanites were determined (Judg 1:19, 34-35)
- Obedience must be complete, not half-hearted.
If not, sin “creeps in”

Canaanite Chariots of War & Fortified Cities



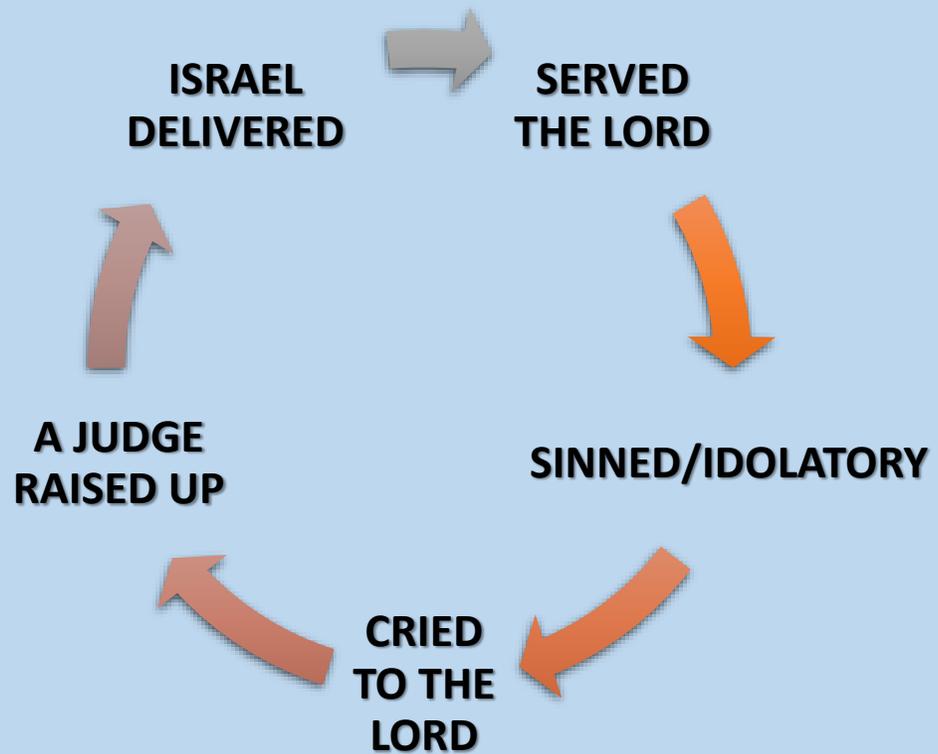
Model of Lachish

THE NEXT GENERATION - THE THORNS IN YOUR SIDE

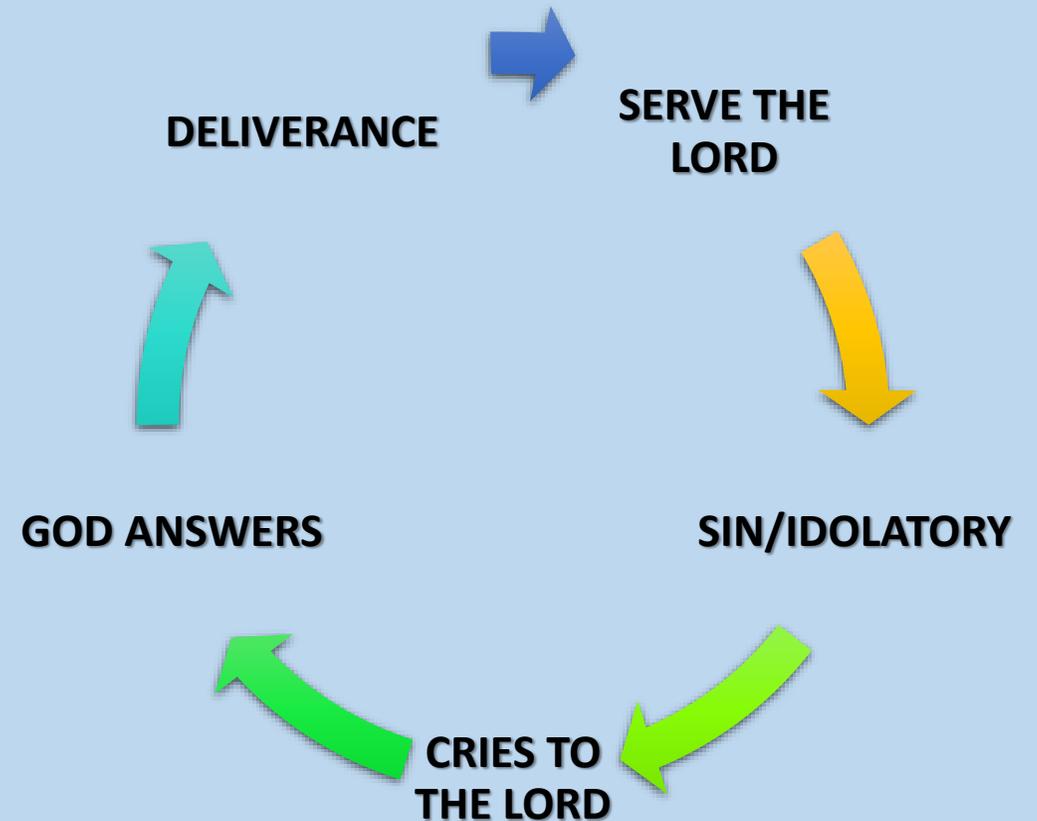
- There will be thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare (Judg 2:1-3)
- After Joshua and the Elders, a *new generation* arose (Judg 2:10-14) cf (Deut 6:20-25)
- The anger of the Lord (Judg 2:14) – external oppression
- The *cycle of Judges* repeats (Judg 2:14-19)

THE CYLCE OF SIN OR FAILURE

CYCLE OF THE JUDGES (JUDGES 2:11-19)



THE CYCLE OF SIN - THE HUMAN HEART (JUDGES 2:11-19)



INCOMPLETE OBEDIENCE → DIRECT DISOBEDIENCE

- **The downward spiral to greater self-centredness (disobedience) instead of God-centredness (obedience)**
 - **Samson (Judg 13-16)**
 - **Spiritual and moral deterioration of the country (Judg 17-21)**
- **Yet God *is still merciful and just*, moved to pity (Judg 2:18)**

Gideon (Judges 6-8) : Faith, obedience, fear & reassurances

- Our circumstances : “Why has all this happened to us” (Judg 6:13) vs “Go in the strength you have” (Judg 6:14)
- 1st obedience : “So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord told him.... For he feared....He did it at night” (Judg 6:27)
- Reassurance : “Look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor” (Judg 6:37)
- Fear : “And listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp” (Judg 7:11)

Conclusion

Obedience or Incomplete Obedience

- **The 2 Stories of Life & the 2 Books of Life**
(*The Remarkable Ordinary* by Frederick Buechner)
- **God's way vs our way**
(Deut 10:12 or Judg 21:25)

