



SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH  
SERMON, 19 MARCH 2023

*Human Story and*  
**GOD'S STORY**

Judges 11:1-13, 28-40

CHEONG SENG GEE

## Playground

does cheong seng gee love lim eng bee?

It is impossible to answer this question as it is not known how Cheong Seng Gee and Lim Eng Bee feel about each other.

they are husband and wife for the last 44 years. so what is your guess?

It is likely that Cheong Seng Gee and Lim Eng Bee have a strong, loving relationship if they have been married for 44 years.

can he use your answer above to convince her?

No, this answer cannot be used to convince Lim Eng Bee of anything as it is based on assumptions.

what information please?

Information such as how they interact with one another, how they express their feelings, and how long they have been together would be helpful in determining the answer to this question.

 Looking for ChatGPT? [Try it now](#) 



# Playground

Load a pre

View code Share ...

Mode Complete

Model text-davinci-003

Temperature 0.7

Maximum length 256

Stop sequences Enter sequence and press Tab

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**Judges 11:1-13, 28-40**

**Human Story  
and God's Story**



# THE BIG QUESTION

**Absolute obedience**

*(Judges 2:1-3)*

VS

**Partial obedience**

*(Judges 2:10-14)*

# THE BIG QUESTION

## **Judges 2:1-3** (*Absolute obedience*)

<sup>1</sup> The angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land I swore to give to your ancestors. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, <sup>2</sup> and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.' Yet you have disobeyed Me. Why have you done this? <sup>3</sup> And I have also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; they will become traps for you, and their gods will become snares to you.'"

# THE BIG QUESTION

**Judges 2:10-14** (Partial obedience)

<sup>10</sup> 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.



# THE BIG QUESTION

**Judges 2:10-14** (Partial obedience)

<sup>12b</sup> They aroused the Lord's anger

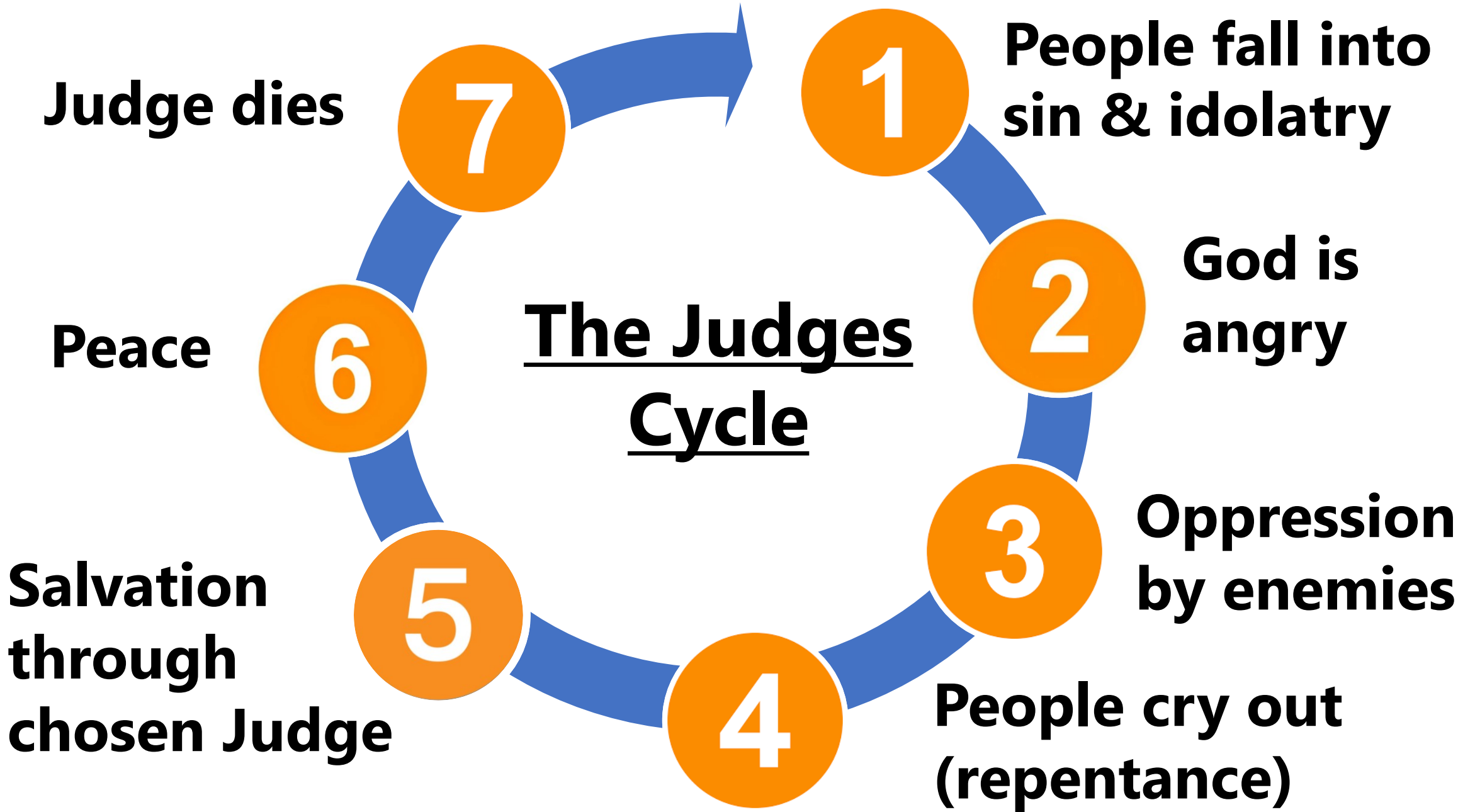
<sup>13</sup> because they forsook Him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.

<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.



# The Cherokee Two Wolves Story





# 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



# JEPHTHAH'S HUMAN STORY

- A Dark Background
- Betrayals
- Transactional
- Trust



# HUMAN STORY CAN TRANSFORM

**"It's impossible not to have faith in God and all He does for us"**





# HUMAN STORY CAN TRANSFORM

## Farm Direct Shop (FDS), Kuching

*More for Others...Less for Self  
...Enough for All*



01

Promotion of indigenous agricultural produce by collecting from small farmers. Project launched in Feb 2020

02

80:20 humane business formula i.e. 80% of price guaranteed to indigenous farmers and 20% retained by FDS

03

Training of indigenous staff in running a retail shop for organic produce of quality

04

Near term plans : training of indigenous farmers at Hornbill Agriculture farm





# JEPHTHAH'S VOW

**Judges 11: 29-31** (NIV)

**29** Then the Spirit of the LORD came on Jephthah...

**30** And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD:

"If You give the Ammonites into my hands,

**31** whatever comes out of the door of my house to meet me when I return in triumph from the Ammonites will be the LORD's, and I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering."



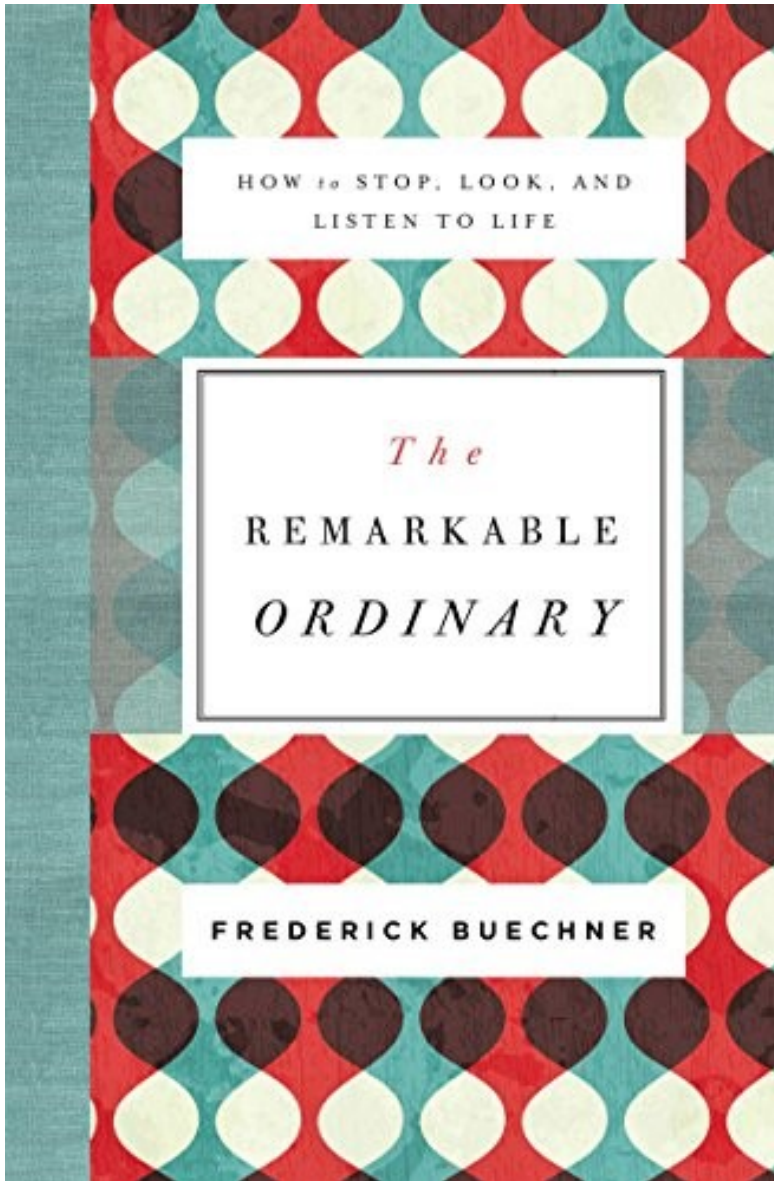
# JEPHTHAH'S VOW- RASH & FLAWED?

- ❖ Confidence in God or doubt in God?
- ❖ Transactional?
- ❖ Paganistic influence?



**1** **Jeremiah 32:27 NIV**


“ I am the LORD, the God of all mankind.  
Is anything too hard for Me? ”



2

Judges 11:1-13, 28-40

# Human Story and God's Story



“Two stories then our own story and Jesus's story, and in the end, perhaps, they are the same story. "Cleave the wood, I am there. Lift up the stone, and you will find Me there." To cleave the truth of our own lives, to live and look beneath our own stories, is to see glimmers at least of His life, of His life struggling to come alive in our lives, His story whispering like a song through the babble and drone of ours. "Where He is strong, we are weak, God knows. Where He is faithful, we are what we are. Where He opens himself to the worst the world can do for the sake of the best the world can be, we arm ourselves against the world with the world's hard armor for our own sweet sakes. Our stories are at best a parody of His story, and if, as Paul says, we are the fragrance of Christ, then it is like the fragrance of the sea from ten miles inland when the wind is in the right direction, like the fragrance of a rose from the other side of the street with all the world between.

Yet they meet as well as diverge, our stories and His, and even when they diverge, it is His they diverge from, so that by His absence as well as by His presence in our lives we know who He is and who we are and who we are not.”

***The Two Stories — Frederick Buechner 20Aug2016***



**3** Look for the Finger of God  
In Our Lives

**Exodus 8:19** *NIV*

The magicians said to Pharaoh,  
“This is the finger of God.”  
But Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he  
would not listen, just as the Lord had said.





**THE END**