

# The Pattern of Israel (Judges)

## Lesson # 6

### Introduction:

In today's lesson we will see Israel as they go about trying to be God's people inside the promise land. They like us, have their ups and downs. As we look at these short stories in the book of Judges hopefully we will see a pattern that seems constant with all mankind a pattern that we shouldn't follow. Again like the preceding lessons God wants us to look to him for leadership. Jeremiah 10:23 says "...its not for a man to direct his steps."

### Lesson:

#### I. Seven times during this book God's people become oppressed by other nations.

-During these times God raised up leaders (Judges) to guide Israel out of oppression.

1. Oppressed by Mesopotamia  
-Judge Othniel (3:8-11)
2. Oppressed by Moab  
-Judge Ehud (3:12-20)
3. Attack by Philistines  
-Judge Shamgar (3:31)
4. Oppressed by Canaan  
-Judge Deborah (chs 4-5)
5. Oppressed by Midian  
-Judge Gideon (chs. 6-8)  
-Judge Abimelech (ch. 9)  
-Judge Tola (10:2)  
-Judge Jair (10:1-5)
6. Oppressed by Ammon  
-Judge Jephthah (10:6 - 12:7)  
-Judge Ibzan (12:8-10)  
-Judge Elon (12:11-12)  
-Judge Abdon (12:13-15)
7. Oppressed by Philistia  
-Judge Sampson (chs 13-16)

\* Even fought against themselves. (Judges 12,20)

II. Through these seven events a cycle or pattern comes to light.

- Peace
- Apostasy (Failing away from God's will)
- Oppression
- Repentance
- Deliverance
- Peace

- Example: Folks lost in a forest end up going in circles right?
- To find their way they must find a direction

III. Lets Go over the story of Gideon Judges chapters 6-8

- After the peace during Deborah's time Israel did evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- They worshiped false gods. Judges 6:30.
- So God delivered them into the hands of Midianites
  - For 7 years these raiders swept into Israel on camels devouring crops until Israel was literally impoverished.
  - 135,000 Midianites troops were camped close at Moreh
- Call of Gideon Judges 6:11-24
  - Angel of the Lord tells Gideon to go and save Israel.
  - Sign of fleece Judges 6:33-40
- Gideon chose 300 men for battle.
  - Started with 32,000 Judges 6:34-35
  - God told Gideon to send the fearful home 22,000 went home
  - With 10,000 remaining another cut had to be made
    - Those who lapped water from their hand were 300 men
- Assurance for a week leader.
  - Go down to their camp and listen. Judges 6:10-15
  - Midianite dream of a round barley bread rolling into camp and hitting tents Judges 7:9-14
- Battle belonged to the Lord. Chapter 7
  - Armed with ram's horn trumpets (shophars) and torches in earthen jars.
  - They broke the jars and blew the trumpets
    - Midianite in confusion killed many of their own and fled
  - \*Note: Maybe when our earthen vessel is broken the light of Jesus can shine through us!
- \* They tried to make Gideon their king. (Judges 8:22-23)
  - "The Lord will rule over you"
  - Gideon refuses to be king

Conclusion:

During this period of time Israel couldn't seem to stay focused on God. Hence the remark in Judges 17:6 that says "Everyone did as they saw fit in their own eyes." God doesn't want his people to live in a useless pattern that takes us from sin, suffering, and sorrow to salvation only to sin again. He made for himself a Holy Nation of people and commanded them to be Holy as he is Holy, looking to him and him alone for leadership and guidance.

Note:

Ruth was probably written during this time

-In the story of Ruth we understand the idea of a kinsman redeemer