

OUR GOD'S FAILURES & FAITHFULNESS

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JUDGES

Part 24 — “Longing for the King”— November 16, 2025

Introduction: The Lord & the King of Israel

From the very beginning, God provided for Israel’s leadership. In Genesis 49:8–12, He gave the tribe of Judah the right to rule and to lead Israel against their enemies. In Deuteronomy 17:14–20, God explained how Israel’s king should be chosen and how he should live under God’s authority as Israel’s “worshiper-in-chief.” Israel’s failure to fully conquer the land and their repeated unfaithfulness only increased their longing for the One who would deliver them from their enemies (and themselves!) and lead them to truly worship and serve the Lord in peace and security.

Main Point: As we look back over the book of Judges, we see again how deeply God’s people need both a _____ and a _____.

An Overview of the Book of Judges

I. The narrative structure of the book helps to convey its overall _____.

Prologue (1:1-3:6)—The focus is on tribal identity and military action while introducing the cycle of religious apostasy, judgment, and deliverance.

Individual Accounts of the Judges (3:7-16:31)—A set of twelve sections which demonstrate a progressive deterioration of the leadership within the nation and at the center of which is a royal figure that is essentially an anti-judge.

Epilogue (17:1-21:25)—The focus returns to the tribes, but their conflict is no longer with other nations but is with one another.

“Judges...indicts the people of Israel...Yet [it] also proclaims the Lord as Israel’s longsuffering and powerful deliverer who raised up judges to relieve the oppression of his people.” —Michael J. Glodo

The Spiral of the Judges:

II. The book demonstrates the sin and disobedience of Israel both as _____ and as a _____.

- The people failed to _____ in God’s promises in order to complete the conquest of the land.

(1) Apostasy & Assimilation (2:11-13; 3:6) (2) Enemy Oppression (2:14-15)

- The progressive decline in the character of the people is mirrored in the character of their _____.

Othniel was the first and therefore primary example of a judge who was filled by the Spirit in order to deliver them from the hands of their enemies (3:8-11)

Abimelech brought destruction on Israel rather than her enemies (9:5,49-50), “reigning” selfishly over the people as a false king (9:22).

Samson, despite being set apart as a Nazarite, married a Philistine (14:1-3) and engaged in open immorality (16:1), yet he was used to bring destruction upon Israel’s enemies.

- By the end of the period of the judges, Israel had become thoroughly “_____.”

(1) Religious Confusion (17:3, 5-6, 18:30-31) and the Corruption of the Levites (17:9-11; 18:19-20; 19:1)

(2) Moral Depravity & Civil War (19:22, 25-26; 20:12-13, 19-20)

III. The book shows the continual faithfulness of the Lord both to _____ and _____ His people.

- The Lord permitted Israel’s oppression, yet always _____ their prayers for help.

Judges 2:16, 20-23; 3:1-2,9,15

- The Lord continually raised up leaders for the people and empowered them with His _____.

Judges 2:16,18; 3:9-10; 6:34; 14:19

Kingship & the Book of Judges

I. The book of Judges serves as an argument for _____ in Israel.

- The deliverance provided by the judges was never _____.

- The people and their leaders were repeatedly guilty of both _____ and religious _____.

Judges 21:25—In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

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Main Point: As we look back over the book of Judges, we see again how deeply God's people need both a Deliverer and a Shepherd.

An Overview of the Book of Judges

I. The narrative structure of the book helps to convey its overall message.

Prologue (1:1-3:6)—The focus is on tribal identity and military action while introducing the cycle of religious apostasy, judgment, and deliverance.

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- The people failed to trust in God's promises in order to complete the conquest of the land.

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- The progressive decline in the character of the people is mirrored in the character of their leaders.

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- By the end of the period of the judges, Israel had become thoroughly “Canaanized.”

(1) Religious Confusion (17:3, 5-6, 18:30-31) and the Corruption of the Levites (17:9-11; 18:19-20; 19:1)
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Kingship & the Book of Judges

I. The book of Judges serves as an argument for kingship in Israel.

- The deliverance provided by the judges was never lasting.

- The people and their leaders were repeatedly guilty of both worldliness and religious compromise.

Judges 21:25—In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

