

# THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

## The Era of the Judges A Few Good Men and Women



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“From Conquest to  
Compromise to  
Conquered”



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## *Gideon*



# FROM CONQUEST TO COMPROMISE TO CONQUERED

## The Era of the Judges

“everyone did what was right in his own  
eyes”

Judges 21:25

“And what more shall I say? I do not have  
time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson,  
Jephthah”

Hebrews 11:32

# Judges 1

<sup>1</sup> After the death of Joshua,

## The Sin Cycle

1.Rebellion

2.Retribution

3.Repentance

4.Restoration

# Judges 1

Now it came about after the death of Joshua that the sons of Israel inquired of the LORD, saying, “Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?”<sup>2</sup> The LORD said, “Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand.”

# Judges 1

Then Judah said to Simeon his brother, “Come up with me into the territory allotted me, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I in turn will go with you into the territory allotted you.” So Simeon went with him. <sup>4</sup> Judah went up, and the LORD gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hands, and they defeated ten thousand men at Bezek.

# Judges 1

<sup>19</sup> Now the **LORD** was with Judah, and they took possession of the hill country;

<sup>22</sup> Likewise the house of Joseph went up against Bethel, and the **LORD** was with them



# Judges 1

Some trust in chariots and some trust in horses,

but we will trust in the Name of the Lord our

God

Psalm 20:7

# Judges 1

<sup>21</sup> But the sons of Benjamin **did not drive out** the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem; so the Jebusites have lived with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

# Judges 1

<sup>27</sup> But Manasseh **did not take possession** of Beth-shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages; so the Canaanites persisted in living in that land.

# Judges 1

<sup>28</sup> It came about when Israel became strong, that they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but **they** did not drive them out completely.

<sup>29</sup> Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who were living in Gezer; so the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them.

# Judges 1

<sup>30</sup> Zebulun **did not drive out the inhabitants** of Kitron, or the inhabitants of Nahalol; so the Canaanites lived among them and became subject to forced labor.

<sup>31</sup> Asher **did not drive out the inhabitants** of Acco, or the inhabitants of Sidon, or of Ahlab, or of Achzib, or of Helbah, or of Aphik, or of Rehob.

# Judges 1

<sup>32</sup> So the Asherites lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for **they did not drive them out.**

<sup>33</sup> Naphtali **did not drive out the inhabitants** of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-anath, but lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; and the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and Beth-anath

# Judges 1

Amos 6:1

<sup>1</sup> Woe to you who are complacent in Zion,

# Deuteronomy 8

<sup>10</sup> When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. <sup>11</sup> Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. <sup>12</sup> Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down,



## Deuteronomy 8

<sup>13</sup> and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup> then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

# Deuteronomy 8

<sup>15</sup> He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. <sup>16</sup> He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you.

# Deuteronomy 8

<sup>17</sup> You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” <sup>18</sup> But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

# Deuteronomy 8

<sup>19</sup> If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. <sup>20</sup> Like the nations the LORD destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the LORD your God.

# Deuteronomy 8

## POINT TO PONDER

At that very time of your prosperity that is when  
you should beware not adversity but prosperity

# Eugene Peterson

## “Run with the Horses”

The puzzle is why so many people live so badly  
not so wickedly but animally

Not so cruelly but so stupidly. There is so little  
to admire and less to imitate in the people who  
are prominent in our culture

# Eugene Peterson

## “Run with the Horses”

We have celebrities not saints

We have famous entertainers who amuse the  
nation of bored insomniacs

Infamous criminals act out the aggressions of  
timid conformists

Petulant and spoiled athletes play game  
vicariously for lazy and apathetic spectators

# Eugene Peterson

## “Run with the Horses”

People aimless and bored amuse themselves  
with trivial and trash

Neither the adventure of goodness nor the  
pursuit of righteousness gets any headlines



## Joshua 2

<sup>7</sup> The people served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel.

<sup>8</sup> Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of a hundred and ten.

# Joshua 2

v<sub>s</sub>.10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.

The second third generation syndrome

## Judges 6

<sup>6</sup> Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the LORD for help.

<sup>7</sup> When the Israelites cried to the LORD

<sup>11</sup> The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites.

# Judges 6

<sup>12</sup> When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, “The LORD **is with you**, mighty warrior.”

<sup>13</sup> “But sir,” Gideon replied, “if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said,

# Judges 6

<sup>14</sup> The LORD turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

## Judges 6

<sup>36</sup> Gideon said to God, “If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised—<sup>37</sup> look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said.”

# Judges 6

<sup>40</sup> That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

We Christians have an internal GPS system

# Judges 7

<sup>1</sup> Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD said to Gideon, “You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands,



# Judges 7

<sup>3</sup> Now announce to the army, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

# Judges 7

4But the LORD said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.”

# Judges 7

<sup>5</sup> So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.” <sup>6</sup> Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

# Judges 7

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home

# Judges 8

## Gideon's Death

<sup>28</sup> Thus Midian was subdued before the Israelites and did not raise its head again. During Gideon's lifetime, the land had peace forty years.

# Judges 9

## Vs. 5

He went to his father's home in Ophrah and on one stone murdered his seventy brothers, the sons of Jerub-Baal. But Jotham, the youngest son of Jerub-Baal, escaped by hiding. <sup>6</sup> Then all the citizens of Shechem and Beth Millo gathered beside the great tree at the pillar in Shechem to crown Abimelek king.

# Judges 9

<sup>51</sup> Inside the city, however, was a strong tower, to which all the men and women—all the people of the city—had fled.

<sup>52</sup> Abimelek went to the tower and attacked it. But as he approached the entrance to the tower to set it on fire, <sup>53</sup> a woman dropped an upper millstone on his head and cracked his skull.

# Judges 9

<sup>54</sup> Hurriedly he called to his armor-bearer,  
“Draw your sword and kill me, so that they can’t  
say, ‘A woman killed him.’”



# Judges 9

**When you look at Gideon's life, you don't see a man of great faith, you see a man of weak faith whom God used greatly.**

**Gideon was fearful but God used him anyway.**

# Gideon

**God uses flawed people to demonstrate his grace so that when the victory is won, he alone gets the glory.**