

VICIOUS CYCLES

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Judges 1:1-3:6—Central Baptist Church—June 4th, 2023

INTRODUCTION

God loves his people too much to leave us in our sin.

Hebrews 12:4—*Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.*

ABOUT AND BACKGROUND

Book of Judges

- Seventh book in the Bible
- Sequel to the Book of Joshua
- Joshua = conquest of the Promise Land / Judges = keeping of the Promise Land

Joshua 21:43–45—*[43] Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. [44] And the LORD gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the LORD had given all their enemies into their hands. [45] Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.*

Joshua 24:20—*“If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.”*

Book of Judges (cont.)

- Joshua is arranged chronologically / Judges is arranged geographically
- Begins with Othniel in Judah / ends with Sampson in Dan
- Moral decadence

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

A society’s greatest need is godly leadership because as the leader goes, so go the people.

CONQUEST

The people of God can never depend on the leadership of men.

Jeremiah 17:5

*“Cursed is the man who trusts in man
and makes flesh his strength,
whose heart turns away from the LORD.*

Every victory we accomplish in life comes from the hand of the Lord.

COMPROMISE

God cares about the holiness of his people.

1 Corinthians 5:6—*Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?*

Comfort with the Canaanites became comfort with their idolatry.

Exodus 20:3—*You shall have no other gods before me.*

How do we keep the church from the perils of worldliness?

- 1) We focus on the proclamation of the gospel.
- 2) We focus on the application of the gospel.
- 3) We focus on the expansion of the gospel.

“The central focus of parenting is the gospel. You need to direct not simply the behavior of your children, but the attitudes of their hearts.” Tedd Tripp, Shepherding a Child’s Heart

CONSEQUENCE

Judges were leaders raised by God to save his people.

As Israel persisted in their faithlessness and idolatry, they found themselves in a vicious cycle—these cycles are known as the Cycle of Judges.

Cycle = sin □ servitude □ supplication □ and salvation

This cycle was the judgement of God on Israel.

This cycle was the grace of God on Israel.

Romans 7:15—*For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.*