

My Life

The cycle of judges can relate to your life in many ways. You kind of need a leader too, to help you along the way. Those leaders can be your parents if you are a kid, but also if you are an adult God will be your leader and help you along the way. The Israelites did not remember the one true God so they started worshipping other Gods and that was not a good idea because God let the Israelite's enemies conquer them. If they would have remembered God, he would have helped them conquer their enemies. This is like us because we sometimes worship other things like money or clothes. God and your parents will help to lead you back to the right path and worshipping only God, the one true king.

That is why you should always remember the one true God. He will help you on your way and he will lead you home. Psalm 100 says, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lay down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death I shall fear no evil. For he is with me. His rod and his staff they comfort me." This is saying that we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. He is the shepherd and will guide us along the right paths.

Psalm 135:13-18

13 Your name, Lord, endures forever, your renown, Lord, through all generations.

14 For the Lord will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants.

15 The idols of the nations are silver and gold, made by human hands.

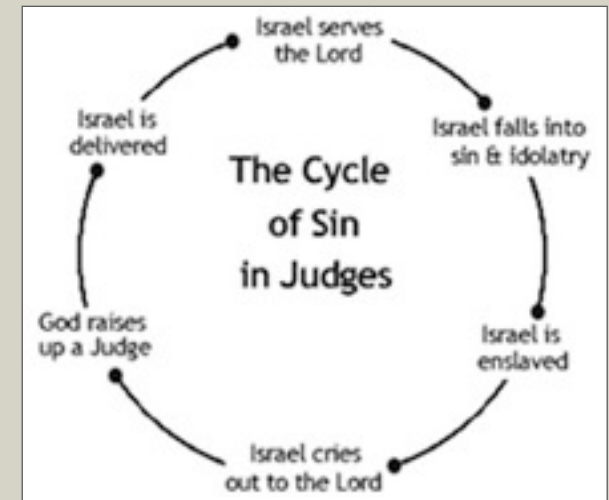
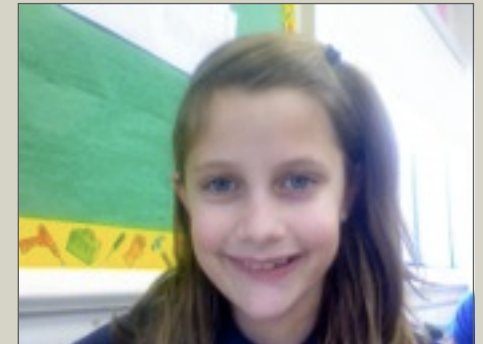
16 They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see.

17 They have ears, but cannot hear, nor is there breath in their mouths.

18 Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.

CYCLE OF THE JUDGES

BY, ELAINA LAARMAN



Q & A

Why did God send judges?

To help the Israelites turn back to God and then they could conquer their enemies if they remembered him because he would help them.

What types of people did God use as judges over Israel?

They were strong, brave, courageous people but he mostly chose people that would follow him because they would most likely be able to conquer the Israelite's enemies because they followed God's plan.

What lessons can we learn about this time period of the judges?

The Israelites never learned that things would get worse if they kept on forgetting God. They pretty much always needed a judge because whenever a judge died, they went back to sinning and worshipping other Gods. Things were not always Happy-Land in Israel!

Samson

Occupation (job):

He was to lead the Israelites.

Time Period:

1,000-1,200 BC

Evidence of Faith:

When he grew weak from Delilah and the Philistine leaders cutting his hair, he cried out to God to let him have strength one more time to push over the temple to defeat the Philistines. He asked God to make him die with the Philistines so God made it happen.

Abilities (or talents):

God gave him super strength as long as he let his hair grow long. If he cut it he would lose his strength. He used his strength to fight off enemies.

Personality:

He was kind of selfish with his strength. He used it only when he wanted to, not in defense for the Israelites.

More Information:

Samson killed 1,000 Philistines with a donkey's jawbone!

Samson's story

Samson was staying with Delilah, a bad woman. Now the Philistines wanted to kill Samson because he had killed many Philistine people. So they said to Delilah, "Find out what makes Samson so strong, find out how we can overpower him. Then we can tie him up and he will be in our control. If you find out we will each give you 28 pounds of silver." So Delilah went to Samson and said, "What makes you so strong?" And Samson replied, "If you tie me up in 7 leather straps I will lose my strength." So that night the Philistine rulers came into Delilah's house and tied Samson up in 7 new leather straps. They thought they would be able to take him away. Delilah yelled, "Samson, the Philistines are attacking!" Samson quickly broke out of the straps. Delilah was furious! She begged and pestered him day and night. Finally Samson gave in and told her that if she cut his hair he would lose his strength. That night Delilah cut Samson's hair. He lost all of his strength. The Philistine rulers took him away and put him in prison. But... his hair began to grow again. The Philistines threw a party, they were so excited to have caught Samson. They told the rulers, "Take Samson out to entertain us." So they took Samson out. Samson prayed to the Lord to give him strength one last time so he could kill the Philistines at the party. "Please let me die with them," he prayed. So God let him have his strength one last time and he pushed over the pillars of the temple of the Philistines. And he died to. And that is Samson's story.