

Ch. 17

The

Judges of

Israel

Ch. 17 L1 PPT

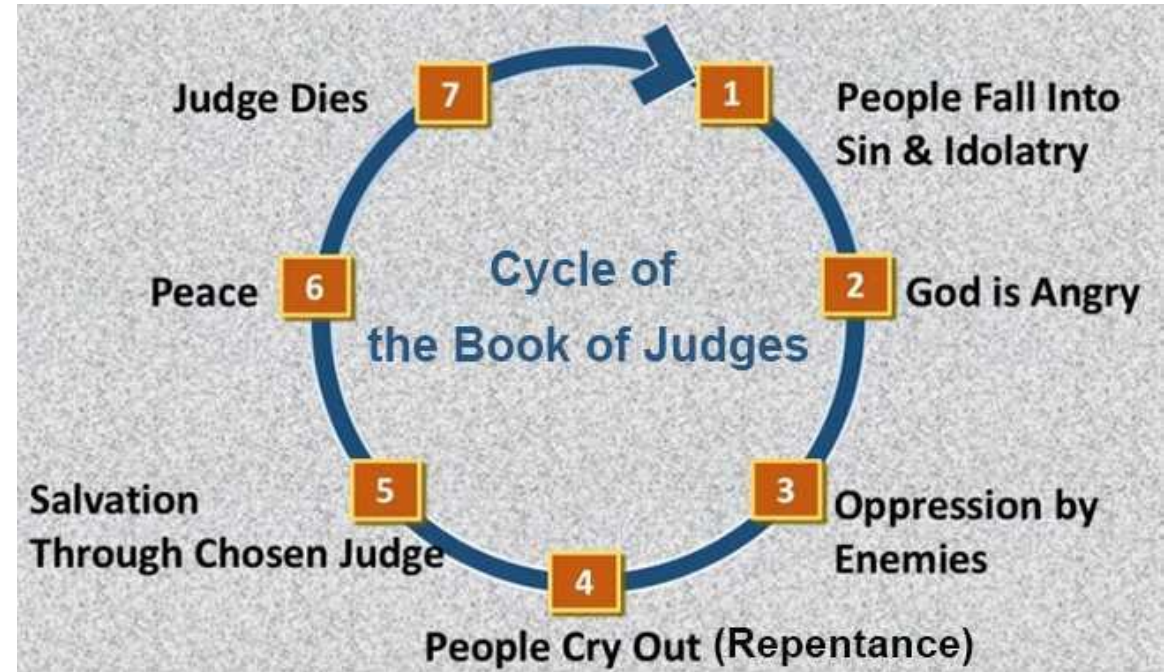


Terms and facts:

- _____: a talent given by God
- _____: someone chosen to perform rituals, make sacrifices, and act as a mediator between God and man
- _____: someone who speaks God's word and God's will to the people, a messenger
- _____: "before Christ" the time in history before the life of Jesus
- _____: "Anno Domini" means "in the year of our Lord" time after Jesus' birth

Period of the Judges

- Time from the death of _____ until the beginning of the rule by _____
- 1250 BC to 1020 BC
- Israel was _____ united
- _____ central government
- People relied on the _____ of the judges



Judges were military leaders

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- Were _____ leaders
 - Sent by _____ to save the Israelites from their enemies
 - Time for _____ for God's people, who had not always been faithful to God's laws
 - 12 judges recorded in the Book of _____
 - 3 Judges in the Book of _____
 - _____ Judges: Deborah, Gideon, Samson and Samuel



Deborah

- _____ and judge
- _____ many people
- Accompanied military leader named _____ into battle with the Canaanites
- 40 years of _____ before the Israelites turned away from _____ again



Gideon

- _____ were ruling over the Israelites
- _____ called Gideon to save the Israelites from the Midianites
- Gideon had a _____ army, but God told him to make it much _____, 300 men



Video Notes

Deborah

Video Notes

Gideon

Problems in the Promised Land

There was much to learn about living in the Promised Land. Once the Israelites had been desert travelers, now they had to cultivate the soil and plant crops. Once the Ark of the Covenant had been in their midst. Now the tribes were scattered throughout the land. How did the Israelites deal with these changes? For one thing, they made many mistakes. They often forgot the Lord and all he had done for them. They violated the first commandment, which calls people to believe in God and to love him above all else. Instead, they placed their hope in the god Baal, just as their Canaanite neighbors did. Then the Israelites found their lives in danger. Invading tribes threatened to take their land. The Israelites realized that they had forgotten their covenant with the Lord. They hadn't been faithful. They called out to God. They wanted to be forgiven and protected once again.

An Answer to Prayer

God answered the prayers of the Israelites by sending leaders to save them from their enemies. These leaders were called **judges**. These judges did not sit in courtrooms. They were usually military leaders. They were leaders of their tribes who were respected for their victories. The judges were gifted by God with a power called a **charism**. A charism is a special gift of God given to a person for the good of others. The judges had charisma that helped them defeat Israel's enemies. The time from the death of Joshua to the beginning of the rule of kings is called the period of judges. There are twelve judges recorded in the Book of Judges. During the period of judges, there was a lot of failure and lawlessness in Israel. It was a time during which God's people did not live like brothers and sisters who were responsible for caring for one another. However, people can learn and grow after making mistakes. The period of judges was a time of growth for God's people.

Deborah

was a judge and prophet of Israel. Seated under her palm tree, Deborah advised people who came to her for judgment. One day Deborah told Barack, a military leader, “God commands you to march on Mount Tabor. He will deliver Sisera into your hands.” Sisera the general of the Canaanite king had led the Canaanite army against the Israelites for 20 years. Barack would not go to battle without Deborah, so she accompanied the troops into battle. They put every Canaanite soldier to death. The only survivor was Sisera, who fled on foot and found safety at the house of his friend Heber. Sisera, however, was tricked by Heber’s wife, Jael, who was loyal to Israel. Jael invited Sisera into her tent, fed him, and then killed him while he slept.

Deborah is a good example of someone who accepted her responsibility to build a healthy society. She took great risks and trusted in the Lord. After the battle, she praised God for all he had done for his people. Deborah's song of praise, found in the Book of Judges, chapter 5, is considered one of the oldest texts in the Bible, originating over 3,000 years ago.

Gideon

After Deborah's victory, there was peace for about 40 years. However, the Israelites eventually turned away from God again, so God allowed the Midianites to rule over the Israelites. After seven years, the Israelites cried out to God for help.

Gideon's family was the poorest in the tribe. Despite this, he was called by God to save the Israelites from the Midianites. Gideon asked God to perform a miracle to prove that God could give him the power to defeat the Midianites. Gideon laid a piece of fleece on the floor and asked to have dew appear on the fleece while the ground stayed dry. Then he asked that the fleece remain dry while dew fell to the ground around it. God humored Gideon and performed the tasks. Then, to show that trust in God is rewarded, God gave Gideon special directions for his army. God told him, "You have too many men!" and to pick only 300 men to fight in his army. How could they win with so few?

But Gideon trusted God to help them. He gave each of his men a trumpet and a clay pot with a lighted lamp inside. He told his men that when they came to the enemy camp, they should blow their trumpets, break their clay pots, and shout, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" And that is just what they did. When the enemy soldiers heard the noise and saw the burning lamps that had been hidden in the pots, they yelled in fear and ran for their lives.