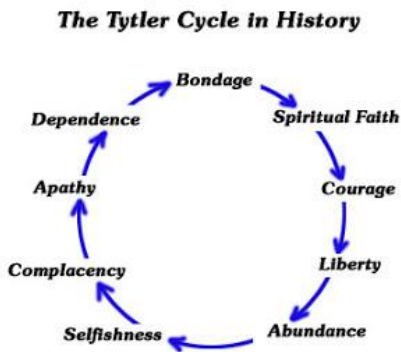


20220202 Judges Chapter 10 – A Broken and a Contrite Spirit Thou Wilt Not Despise

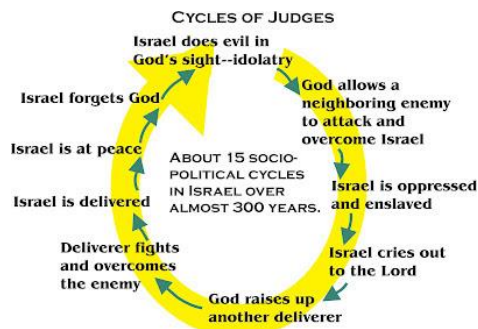
Reading all 66 books in the Bible. We are now in Judges and soon we'll go to a book in the New Testament. Remember last Sunday we looked at the fall of Abimelek who killed 70 of his brothers. That was all of the sons of Gideon except for one named Joash.



We have seen a cycle of sin in the Book of Judges. It is a pattern that is closely tied to human emotions and behavior. You all will remember that Sandy summarized the life of civilizations as: Hard times make tough men. Tough men make good times. Good times make weak men. Weak men make hard times.

This is a good short summary of the 18th century writings of a Alexander Fraser Tytler.

We read out of Deuteronomy 8 last week in which Moses gave a warning about the tendency to forget that it is God that is responsible for the good things that happen to us.



¹⁸ "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. ¹⁹ Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. ²⁰ As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of

the LORD your God. (Deuteronomy Chapter 8)

So under the Mosaic covenant. If you obey God and follow his ways your life would be blessed. If you do not you will live under a curse.

Thank God we don't live under the Mosaic covenant but a principle is present that when we don't follow the Lord there will be consequences. The consequences might not be eternal, but it will be enslavement to self and sin in this life. Let's read on.

Remember who Abimelek was. He usurped authority and he talked the men of Shechem into raising him. They tried to make him their king and after 3 years they got cross with one another.

Tola

10 After Abimelech there arose to save Israel Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar; and he dwelt in Shamir in the mountains of Ephraim. ² He judged Israel twenty-three years; and he died and was buried in Shamir.

There wasn't any great mention of Tola. He just judged Israel 23 years.

Jair

³ After him arose Jair, a Gileadite; [northeast of the Jordan river] and he judged Israel twenty-two years. ⁴ Now he had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys; they also had thirty towns, which are called "Havoth Jair" [the tent villages of Jair] to this day, which are in the land of Gilead. ⁵ And Jair died and was buried in Camon.

So this is kind of a weird fact about Jair. He had 30 sons on 30 donkeys in 30 towns. He had affluence but no influence.

Israel Oppressed Again

⁶ Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria [Reshef, the storm god, and Hadda, god of thunder], the gods of Sidon [Baal and Ashorah], the gods of Moab [Chemosh], the gods of the people of Ammon [Molech], and the gods of the Philistines [Dagan the fish god]; and they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him. ⁷ So the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and into the hands of the people of Ammon. ⁸ From that year they harassed and oppressed the children of Israel for eighteen years - all the children of Israel who were on the other side of the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, in Gilead. ⁹ Moreover the people of Ammon crossed over the Jordan to fight against Judah also, against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was severely distressed.

¹⁰ And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, "We have sinned against You, because we have both forsaken our God and served the Baals!"

Once again they're in trouble. We see God's people in repentance.

¹¹ So the LORD said to the children of Israel, "Did I not deliver you from the Egyptians and from the Amorites and from the people of Ammon and from the Philistines? ¹² Also the Sidonians and Amalekites and Maonites oppressed you; and you cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hand. ¹³ Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods. Therefore, I will deliver you no more. ¹⁴ "Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in your time of distress."

So what's the problem with calling out to those other gods? They don't exist. There is only one God and He is God alone. You can pray all day long but if you're praying to a false god you'll communicate with no one.

*¹⁵ And the children of Israel said to the LORD, "We have sinned! Do to us whatever seems best to You; only deliver us this day, we pray." ¹⁶ So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD. **And His soul could no longer endure the misery of Israel.***

They prayed. They cried. They repented. It is not only turning to God but it is turning from those false gods that separate you from Him. I love the last sentence. God cannot endure the misery of His people. This reminds me of David's come to Jesus meeting when he had sinned with Bathsheba. He said,

*¹⁶ For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it;
You do not delight in burnt offering.*

*¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise. Psalm 51*

Our God is an awesome God. He reigns from heaven and earth.

¹⁷ Then the people of Ammon gathered together and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled together and encamped in Mizpah. ¹⁸ And the people, the leaders of Gilead, said to one another, "Who is the man who will begin the fight against the people of Ammon? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."