

# THE OLD TESTAMENT

## *Seeing the Big Picture*

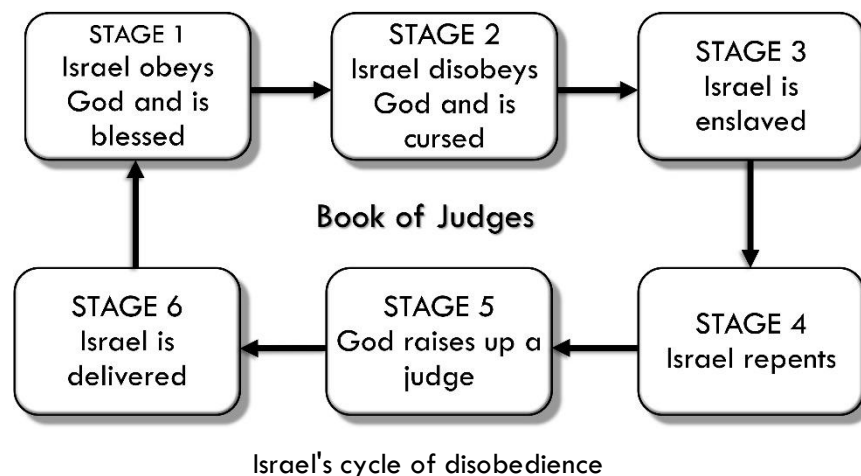
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### Part 7: THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES

The book of Judges covers 356 years between the conquest of the Promised Land and the uniting of the twelve tribes under a single king (Saul, David, Solomon). It describes the repeated six stages of Israel's apostasy, and how God graciously raised up a judge each time to deliver them from their enemies.

#### I. ISRAEL'S CYCLE OF DISOBEDIENCE



##### **A. Stage 1: Israel obeys God (Mosaic Law) and is blessed (cf. Deut. 28:1-14)**

1. Israel lives in obedience to God and the Mosaic Law.
2. Israel experiences the blessings of the Mosaic Covenant (Deut. 28:1-14).

##### **B. Stage 2: Israel disobeys God (Mosaic Law) and is cursed (cf. Deut. 28:15-25).**

1. They didn't teach their children (Judges 2:10; cf. Prov. 22:6; Joel 1:3).
2. They intermarried with Canaanites.
3. They worshipped Canaanite gods.
4. Question: Would you say America is a godly nation today? If not, what things are, in a sense, worshipped in our nation today?
5. As a result of Israel's disobedience, it experienced the curses described in Deut. 28:15-68.

**C. Stage 3: Israel is enslaved by other nations.**

1. The Israelites had a much stronger army but fell to the sensual religion and practices of the Canaanites.
2. Much of the OT documents how Israel is defeated by other nations because of their disobedience (e.g., Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks, Romans, etc.).
3. The good news, someday all Israel (believers)<sup>1</sup> will be saved (Romans 11:26-27).

**D. Stage 4: Israel repents.**

1. Israel realizes their mistake and cries out to the Lord for deliverance from their oppressors (Judges 3:9, 15; 6:6; 10:10).
2. Each time Israel repented God raised a judge ("deliverer") to free Israel from its oppressors (Judges 3:9, 15).

**E. Stage 5: God raises up a judge.**

1. Cycle 1: Othniel (Judges 3:7-11).
2. Cycle 2: Ehud and Shamgar (Judges 3:12-30).
3. Cycle 3: Deborah and Barak (Judges 4:1—5:31).
4. Cycle 4: Primarily Gideon but including Tola and Jair (Judges 6:1—8:32).
5. Cycle 5: Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon (Judges 11:29-40; 12:8-15).
6. Cycle 6: Samson (Judges 13:1—21:25).

**F. Stage 6: Israel is delivered.**

1. God in his love and patience empowers these judges to deliver Israel from its oppressors.
2. Israel then enjoys peace for a period (Judges 3:11, 30; 5:31; 8:28)
3. Unfortunately, Israel then falls back into sin and idolatry and repeats this same cycle for a total of six times.

## **II. SUMMARY: WHY THE BOOK OF JUDGES IS SO IMPORTANT**

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A. It shows the need for \_\_\_\_\_.

B. It shows the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.

C. It shows the need to trust in God, especially during \_\_\_\_\_.

D. It shows that we are to learn \_\_\_\_\_.

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