

Judges Series

Lesson #04

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Government, Kingship, Authority
Introduction: Part 4



JUDGES

**Moral Relativism
Destroys a Nation**

2021 Series

Judg. 17:6, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Judg. 18:1, “In those days there was no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking an inheritance for itself to dwell in; for until that day their inheritance among the tribes of Israel had not fallen to them.”

Judg. 19:1, “And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite staying in the remote mountains of Ephraim. He took for himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah.”

Outline of “Judges” (Chieftains, Tribal Rulers, Leaders)

1:1–3:6

Introduction

How Israel went from
spiritual victory
to being worse than
the Canaanites.

**Incomplete
obedience**

compromise

failure

cycles of discipline

3:7–16:31

Paganization of the Leadership

Othniel (the best)

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

Gideon

Tola, Jair

Jephthah

Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

Samson

(the worst)

17:1–21:25

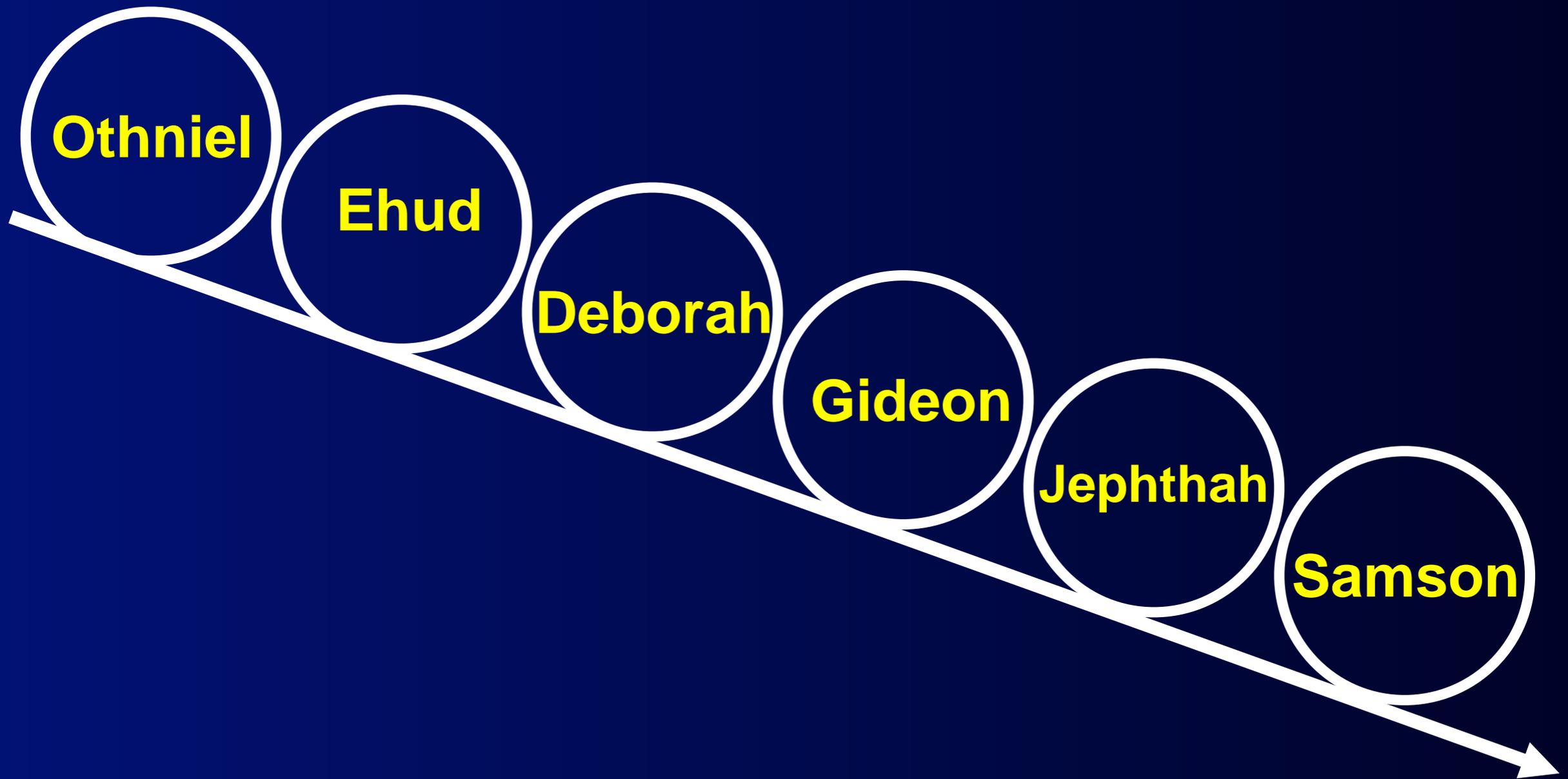
Paganization of the Priests

Chap 17–18

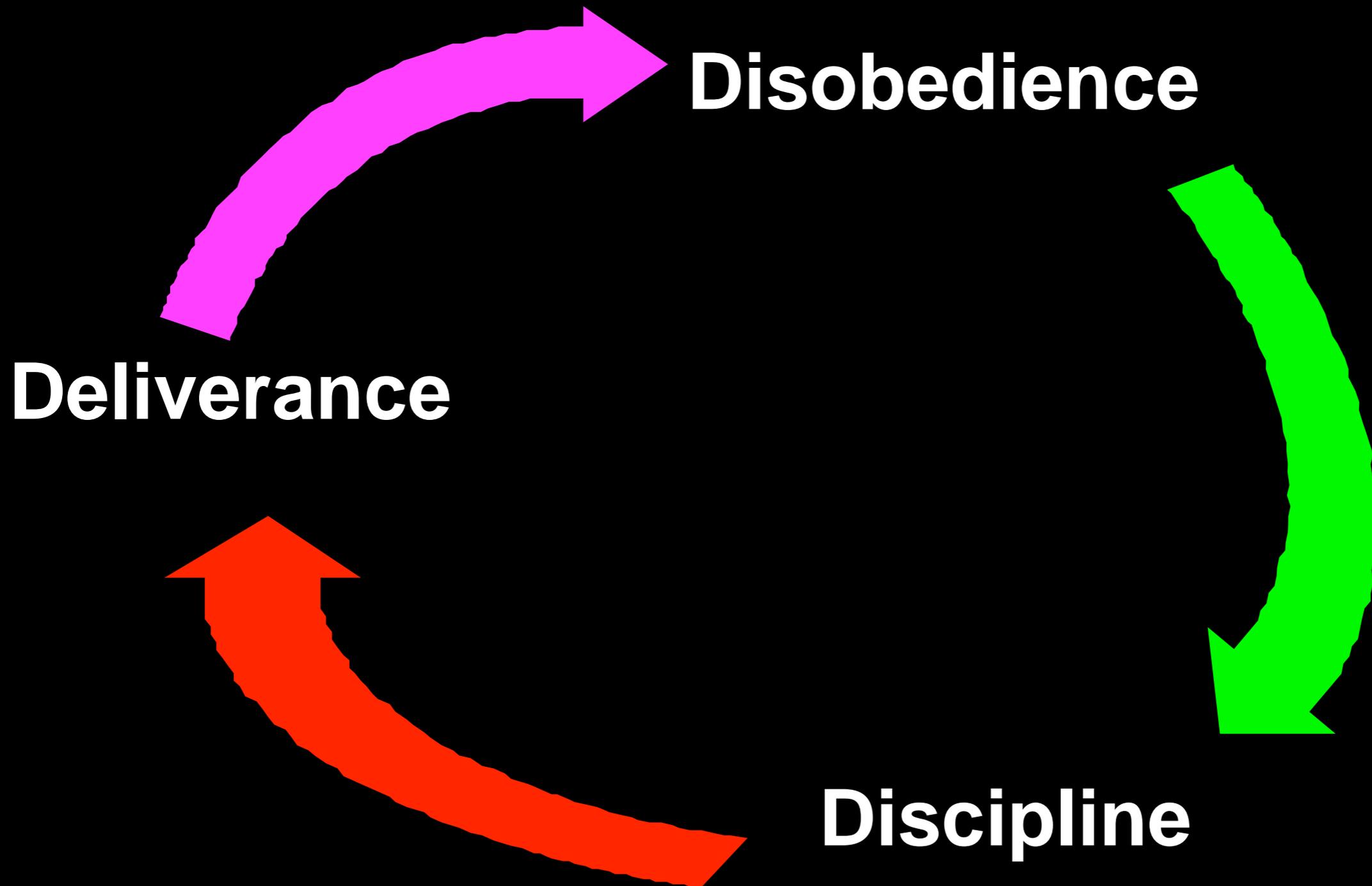
**and the
People**

Chap 19–21

Deterioration of Positive Volition in the Judges



The Cycles of the Judges



“Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

Exodus 19:5–6a

TORAH

HISTORICAL

Basic Lessons:

- 1. God is in control. God determines right and wrong.**

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- 1. God is in control. God determines right and wrong.**
- 2. God's grace provides the only solution. We cannot earn or merit God's grace, but He freely provides the solution, we are to simply trust Him.**
- 3. Salvation was not by the Law, the Law was given to teach them how a redeemed nation was to live.**

Why was Judges written?

- 1. Judges is written to provide a dark illustration of what happens to the human race, and to a nation, to families and business, when a nation acts independent of God and tries to make up their own rules.**

Why was Judges written?

- 2. Judges also shows that again and again they can turn back to God, and God will deliver them and forgive them, but then the cycle repeats again.**

Why was Judges written?

3. Judges is also written to show us God's grace. No matter how rebellious and depraved the nation and her leaders were, God would meet them where they were and in grace enable them to be restored.

Why was Judges written?

- 4. Judges is written to show that God is always faithful to us, even when we are faithless.**

Judg. 21:25, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

1. The thesis of Judges is that the rejection of the Word of God destroys not only a person's spiritual life, but corrupts a culture, a country, a nation.

2. Judges records the paganization of Israel. This is a warning and a description to us of how believers who reject doctrine or fail to make it a priority, succumb to the human viewpoint thought of the culture surrounding them, and instead of being a source of blessing by association, they pervert their heritage and live like the culture around them.

Judg. 21:25, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

3. Human government and the authority of human government is established in the covenant with Noah, to restrain sin and evil in a culture and to exercise judicial restraint and punishment for criminal activity. Gen. 9:5–7

4. In Israel this government took the specific form of a theocracy. God was the ruler and under Him were specific leaders called *SHOPHETIM*, or JUDGES who were raised up in times of national need to deliver the nation from oppression, lead the armies of YHWH against the enemy, and in some cases to render judicial decision.

5. Under this theocratic government established by God in the Mosaic Law, Israel had been given a code for freedom, not only unique in the ancient world but unique in history.

6. Under the Mosaic Law Israel had the right to possess property, enjoy its blessings, benefit, and to profit in business transactions unhindered by an overpowering government.

7. Freedom includes authority and respect for authority. Freedom without authority is anarchy; authority without freedom is tyranny. You cannot have one without the other.

8. Absence of despotic monarchy in Israel not only meant a high degree of personal freedom, but also stood out as a unique and powerful witness for YHWH in the ancient world.

9. Under this environment of freedom Israel could achieve spiritual success, which would bring them material blessing, military victory, and agricultural bounty as a testimony to the grace and power of the one true God.

10. But failure to follow the divine mandates led to a cultural decline where Israel resembled their pagan neighbors and there was no discernible difference in the way they thought or acted.

11. Only Bible doctrine provides a framework to maintain the proper balance between freedom and authority. Only doctrine provides the capacity for freedom.