

**BOOK OF JUDGES**  
**YET ANOTHER CYCLE OF SIN!**  
**JUDGES 10:6-16**

**Introduction**

In the last two messages we saw how the **LORD** used two **OBSCURE, BUT IMPORTANT JUDGES** to lead the nation of **ISRAEL** through a combined **45 years of PEACE**.

**TOLA** rose up to **JUDGE** the nation of **ISRAEL** for **23 years**, then he died. And then a man named **JAIR** picked up the baton of leadership after **TOLA** and **JUDGED ISRAEL** for the next **22 years** and then he died!

What is rather amazing this time is that **ISRAEL** made it through two **JUDGES** before getting back into their almost predictable **CYCLE OF SIN!**

In the **BOOK OF JUDGES**, if there is one thing that we have repeatedly seen it is that the **LORD'S** people didn't seem to understand how **GRAVE** their **DISOBEDIENCE** to the **LORD** really was! It was a **SERIOUS** matter!

Let me remind you that the **APOSTLE PAUL** wrote in *1 Corinthians 10:11* that the things that happened to **ISRAEL** are written for our **ADMONITION!** And in *Romans 15:4* he wrote that these former things were written for our **LEARNING**, that we through **PATIENCE** and **COMFORT of the SCRIPTURES** might have **HOPE**. Where is that **COMFORT** and **HOPE** found? In **PATIENTLY OBEYING the LORD!**

Well, that begs us to **EXAMINE OURSELVES** and see just exactly how **SERIOUS** we view our own **DISOBEDIENCE** to the **LORD!** Do we see it being as **EGREGIOUS** as the **LORD HIMSELF** sees it? Are we quick to **CONFESS** and **FORSAKE** our **SIN**, keeping **SHORT ACCOUNTS?** Or, are we like what we have seen in the **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL**, hanging on to **SIN** and serving **other things (gods) in our life?** All while wondering why the **LORD** doesn't rescue us from our dire situation!

I'm not making any **OBSERVATIONS** or **JUDGMENTS** of anyone. What I am asking is for each of us to **EXAMINE OURSELVES and JUDGE FOR OURSELVES!** Is our **LIFE** more **DIFFICULT** than it should be because we are **BEING CHASTENED** after having **STRAYED** from **OUR "FIRST LOVE" OF THE LORD** and **HIS** leadership in our lives? Just asking!

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This is just a friendly **REMINDER**...because that is what I'm called to do as a **FAITHFUL UNDERSHEPHERD**...**REMINDE** us of the things we need to be **REMIND**ED of!

**I. WE SEE ONCE AGAIN THAT ISRAEL DID EVIL IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD! (Vs 6)**

The **TENDENCY** might be for us to read *verse 6* and say, "*Oh well, we've seen this before and we know how this is going to turn out so lets just move on to **Judges Chapter 11** and see how the **LORD** used **JAPHETH** to deliver them!*"

Not so fast! This time they went **FARTHER** in their **SIN** and **IDOLATRY!** This time we see that the **ANGER** of the **LORD** appears to have been **hotter** against them! And, this time we see that the **LORD** is not as quick to **DELIVER** them!

They had gotten too used to this **CYCLE** that they kept getting caught up in! It doesn't appear that they had any appreciation for the **EGREGIOUS NATURE** of their **SIN AGAINST THE LORD!**

We see that as soon as **JAIR** passed off the scene, the nation of **ISRAEL** went right back to her old ways just as they did when **GIDEON** died. If you're keeping count, this is the sixth time in the book of **JUDGES** that **ISRAEL** turned her back on the **LORD GOD** to worship **IDOLS** of some sort.

Each time **the children of ISRAEL** turned from the **LORD**, her **DEPRAVITY** got worse. Each time she sank lower and lower into **PAGANISM**.

This particular verse contains the most extensive description of **APOSTASY** found in this book. We might could say that this time they had gotten about as evil as they possibly could. **The children of ISRAEL** not only served **false gods, but they completely IGNORED, FORGOT ABOUT, and TURNED THEIR BACK ON the ONE and ONLY TRUE GOD!**

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Things became so evil in ISRAEL that, not only did the people serve the idols and false gods of the CANAANITES, but they were also serving other false gods. There are at least seven false gods mentioned here, all which include some of the most depraved and perverted religious practices known to man.

In most of these “religious ceremonies” there was IMMORALITY, which was always a popular sin with ISRAEL. On top of that, there were human sacrifices—especially that of children!

- 1) The CANAANITES worshiped the BAALS and ASHTORETHS. (*Judges 2:11-13*)  
The worship of both was steeped in IMMORALITY.
- 2) SYRIA and ZIDON both had gods they worshiped. These gods were similar in many ways to the CANAANITE gods and there were even some combining of gods so as to make their gods in the image they wanted them to be. Again, most all of these were associated in some way with IMMORALITY! It kept the entanglement of people strong!
- 3) The MOABITES worshiped CHEMOSH. (*Numbers 21:29*) (*Which included human sacrifice and lustful orgies.*)
- 4) The AMMONITES worshiped both CHEMOSH and MOLECH. (*I Kings 11:5*) (*Included child sacrifice.*)
- 5) The PHILISTINES worshiped DAGON. (*Judges 16:23*)  
Half man and half fish. (*Think of this as being a sort of evolutionary thought way before Darwin hit the scene!*)

At the end of *verse 6*, the text says that they “forsook the LORD, and served him not.” So their evil went to another level. Instead of just adding these other gods to their worship of the LORD, they got to the point where they didn’t even include the LORD, the true GOD, at all in their worship! Just as well, HE’S A JEALOUS GOD!

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**Those involved here were wholly given over to evil. These were the LORD’s own people who were completely given over to evil!**

It is one thing to leave a person. It is another thing to leave a person and pursue another person. It is another thing to leave a person, pursue another person and forget about the first person!

That is exactly what ISRAEL did. She left the LORD GOD, pursued all these other false gods and forgot about the only true GOD!  
**There is an attempt to do this in our own nation today! (*explain*)**

Understand that there is a SPIRITUAL INSANITY TO SIN!  
**DEPRAVED SIN** makes no logical sense. (*e.g. When one thinks that killing babies in the womb is the LORD’s work that is insane!*)

It matters not how smart or successful one may think themselves to be. (I call it “*being educated far beyond their intelligence!*”)

If they WILLINGLY SIN and CHOOSE to put a breech in their relationship with the ONE TRUE GOD WHO, ALONE can CLEARLY be seen as the source of BLESSINGS PAST and PRESENT, then they are out of their right mind!  
*(We are seeing this in our own dear country and it makes me want to cry out to our countries leadership, “Are you people insane?”)*

*WE SEE NOT ONLY SEE THAT ONCE AGAIN ISRAEL DID EVIL IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD LIKE NEVER BEFORE!*

**II. WE SEE THAT THE LORD GOD WAS SO ANGRY WITH ISRAEL THAT HE SOLD THEM AS SLAVES FOR A PERIOD OF EIGHTEEN YEARS! (Vs 7-9)**

When the LORD gets ANGRY at a nation, an organization, a church, or an individual, HE can cause things to fall apart. The LORD can and will cause the world of those that are in rebellion to completely collapse. (*We’re beginning to see this in our land!*)

In *verses 8-9* there are three verbs that show what the LORD did and how bad things were: “*vexed,*” “*oppressed,*” and “*sore distressed.*”

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Understand that the **LORD** was the **ONE** that brought this down on **HIS** own nation and people! Through the **PHILISTINES** and the **AMMONITES**, **HE** was *vexing HIS people, oppressing* them, and putting them into situations where they were *sore distressed*.

The **LORD** was so angry with **HIS PEOPLE** that **HE** allowed the heathen **PHILISTINES** to dominate **HIS PEOPLE** in the west, and the heathen **AMMONITES** to dominate **HIS PEOPLE** in the east. The **AMMONITES** lived in the hill country on the east side of the **JORDAN** and the **PHILISTINES** lived on the **MEDITERRANEAN COAST** on the west side of the **JORDAN**.

These **OPPRESSIONS** were orchestrated by the **LORD** and occurred at the same time. *Oppression in stereo*, if you will. The **LORD** allowed them to be kept under **OPPRESSION** for eighteen years!

Why didn't the **LORD** just wipe them all out? Because the **LORD** is a **COVENANT-KEEPING GOD!** The nation of **ISRAEL** cannot ever lose its national significance in the program of **GOD**, but the **LORD** can make life miserable for them. **HE** can and often has made things so bad that they become desperate! We see that happening here!

**III. WE SEE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL CRIED TO THE LORD ADMITTING THEIR SIN! (Vs 10)**

Here is one of the most graphic **CONFESSIONS OF SIN** recorded in the **BOOK OF JUDGES**. However, it appears to be a **VERY SHALLOW** and **HOLLOW CONFESSION!**

Listen, there is a big difference between **REGRET** and **REPENTANCE**. Sometimes children are truly sorry for what they have done and sometimes they are just sorry they got caught and are having to suffer the consequences of their wrong!

**REGRET** means a person is only **SORRY ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES** their **SIN** has caused! That is **NOT REPENTANCE!**

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**REPENTANCE** is when they **CHANGE THEIR WHOLE THINKING** about the **ACT** and **TURN AWAY FROM IT!**

We may recall that earlier in the book when we did get some glimpses of real sorrow, there were also real tears (**2:4**).

**IV. WE SEE THE LORD THEN REMINDED THEM OF PAST DELIVERANCES AND SAID HE REFUSED TO DELIVER THEM ANY MORE. (Vs 11-14)**

The **LORD** basically told them here that **HE** was tired of them playing their games with **HIM** and that **HE** wasn't going to have any of it this time!

The **LORD** reminded them of what **HE** had done for them in the past and how that their response was to forget **HIM** again! In fact, **HE** told them to **go cry out to the false gods** they were so willing to **CHOOSE** over the **LORD** and get **their false gods deliver** them out of their **TRIBULATION!**

**The LORD refused to respond to their superficial REGRET!**

**V. WE SEE THAT AFTER ISRAEL SHOWED WORKS MEET FOR REPENTANCE, THEN THE LORD WAS GRIEVED AT THEIR MISERY! (Vs 15-16)**

**GOD** will only respond to **REPENTANCE** that is backed up by actions! Many years later, in **JOHN THE BAPTIST'S** day, he called it **BRINGING FORTH FRUITS MEET FOR REPENTANCE!** (*Matthew 3:8*)

That's our **BIBLE STUDY** for this evening! Next week, **LORD** willing, we'll begin to see how the **LORD** raises up the son of a harlot, a **GILEADITE**, by the name of **JEPHTHAH** to deliver **HIS** people!