

# Judges Series

Lesson #101

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**The Hacked-Up Concubine  
and the Hacked-Up Tribe  
Judges 21**



# JUDGES

2021

**When Chaos Was King**

**Gen. 3:16, “To the woman He said: ‘I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire [*t<sup>e</sup>shuqah*] shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.’ ” [NKJV]**

**Gen. 3:16, “To the woman he said, ‘I will greatly increase your labor pains; with pain you will give birth to children. You will want to control your husband, but he will dominate [*masha/*] you.’ ”[NET]**

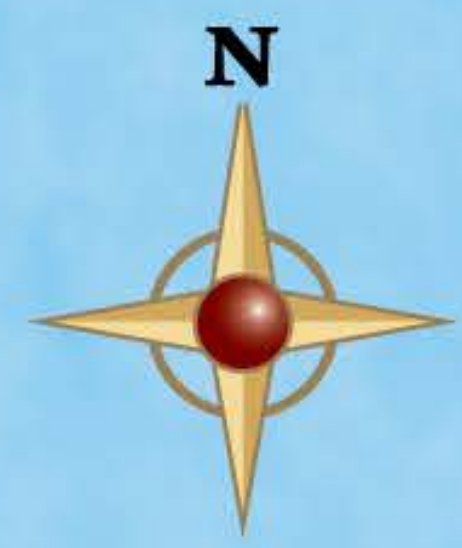
**50**    In The Hebrew verb מָשַׁל (*mashal*) means “to rule over,” but in a way that emphasizes powerful control, domination, or mastery. This also is part of the baser human nature. The translation assumes the imperfect verb form has an objective/indicative sense here. Another option is to understand it as having a modal, desiderative nuance, “but he will want to dominate you.” In this case, the LORD simply announces the struggle without indicating who will emerge victorious.

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

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



S E A



**ZEBULUN**

**ISSACHAR**

**WEST MANASSEH**

**EPHRAIM**

**DAN**

**BENJAMIN**

**GAD**

**REUBEN**

Hannathon

Rimmon

Sarid

Jokneam

Daberath

Chesulloth

Sea of Galilee  
Yarmuk River

Megiddo

Taanach

Jezreel

Ibleam

Beth-shan

Edrei  
Ramoth-gilead

Dothan

Mt. Gilboa

Jabesh-gilead

Socoh

Samaria

Mt. Ebal

Pirathon

Shechem

Succoth

Jabbok River

Gerasa

Mahanaim

Gerizim

Aphek

Tappuah

Janoah

Joppa

Shiloh

**EPHRAIM**

Lod

Upper Beth-horon

Bethel

Mizpah

Gibeon

Jericho

Shittim

Rabbah (Amman)

Jabneel

Gezer

Aijalon

Bethel

Mizpah

Gibeon

Beth-hoglah

Heshbon

Ashdod

Beth-shemesh

Kiriath-Jearim

Jerusalem

Gibeon

Adummim

Mt. Nebo

Bezer

Ashkelon

Gath

Beth-zur

Bethlehem

Medeba

Gaza

Hebron

Dibon

## **Judges 21:1–4 The Consequences of Arrogant Apostasy**

**Judg. 21:1, “Now the men of Israel had sworn an oath at Mizpah, saying, ‘None of us shall give his daughter to Benjamin as a wife.’**

**Judg. 21:2, “Then the people came to the house of God, and remained there before God till evening. They lifted up their voices and wept bitterly,**

**Judg. 21:3, “and said, ‘O Lord God of Israel, why has this come to pass in Israel, that today there should be one tribe missing in Israel?’**

**Judg. 21:4, “So it was, on the next morning, that the people rose early and built an altar there, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.” [NKJV]**

## **Judges 21:1–4 The Consequences of Arrogant Apostasy**

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**Num. 30:1, “Then Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes concerning the children of Israel, saying, ‘This is the thing which the LORD has commanded:**

**Num. 30:2, “ ‘If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.’ ”**

**Deut. 23:21, “When you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you.**

**Deut. 23:22, “But if you abstain from vowing, it shall not be sin to you.**

**Deut. 23:23, “That which has gone from your lips you shall keep and perform, for you voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth.”**

**Judg. 21:3, “and said, ‘O Lord God of Israel, why has this come to pass in Israel, that today there should be one tribe missing in Israel?’**

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**Wrong question! They should have asked, “What brought us to this point!” The criminality, the perversion, the failure to uphold the righteousness of the law; they are all guilty!**

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**They no longer existed as the nation God defined them to be!**

**Judg. 21:4, “So it was, on the next morning, that the people rose early and built an altar there, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.” [NKJV]**

**The People: How could God let this happen?**

**Answer: Because the people had abandoned God and had not listened to Him.**

**Judg. 21:6, “And the children of Israel grieved for Benjamin their brother, and said, ‘One tribe is cut off from Israel today.’ ” [NKJV]**

**Judg. 21:15, “And the people grieved for Benjamin, because the Lord had made a void in the tribes of Israel.” [NKJV]**



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**גָּדַע *gada*◊**

**nif perf 3 masc sing  
to hew, to hack off, to  
cut up**

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**נחם *nacham***

**nif wawConsec 3 masc plur  
to be filled with remorse,  
regret, sorrow**

**גָּדַע *gada*<sup>c</sup>**

**nif perf 3 masc sing  
to hew, to hack off, to  
cut up**

**This is the human viewpoint solution, based on a dubious legal rationale and designed to assuage their guilt and satisfy them emotionally.**

**Phase one of the solution: War of judicial destruction (*cherem*) against another city of Israelites.**

**Judg. 21:6, “And the children of Israel grieved for Benjamin their brother, and said, ‘One tribe is cut off from Israel today.**

**Judg. 21:7, “ ‘What shall we do for wives for those who remain, seeing we have sworn by the Lord that we will not give them our daughters as wives?’**

**Judg. 21:8, “And they said, ‘What one is there from the tribes of Israel who did not come up to Mizpah to the Lord?’ And, in fact, no one had come to the camp from Jabesh Gilead to the assembly.” [NKJV]**

## **The second *cherem* war against their brothers!**

**Judg. 21:9, “For when the people were counted, indeed, not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead was there.**

**Judg. 21:10, “So the congregation sent out there twelve thousand of their most valiant men, and commanded them, saying, ‘Go and strike the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead with the edge of the sword, including the women and children.’ ”**

**Judg. 21:11, “ ‘And this is the thing that you shall do: You shall utterly destroy [*cherem*] every male, and every woman who has known a man intimately.’ ” [NKJV]**

**Judg. 21:13, “Then the whole congregation sent word to the children of Benjamin who were at the rock of Rimmon, and announced peace to them.**

**Judg. 21:14, “So Benjamin came back at that time, and they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh Gilead; and yet they had not found enough for them.**

**Judg. 21:15, “And the people grieved for Benjamin, because the Lord had made a void in the tribes of Israel.”**  
**[NKJV]**



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Rabbah (Amman)

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Bezer

Medeba

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Hannathon

Rimmon

Daberath

Mt. Tabor

Chesulloth

Jokneam

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Megiddo

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Jezreel

Ibleam

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Socoh

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Samaria

Mt. Ebal

Pirathon

Mt. Gerizim

Shechem

Aphek

Tappuah

Janoah

Joppa

Shiloh

Lod

Upper Beth-horon

Jabneel

Gezer

Aijalon

Bethel

Mizpah

Gibeon

Ekron

Kiriath-Jearim

Jerusalem

Jericho

Shittim

Beth-hoglah

Heshbon

Ashdod

Beth-shemesh

Bethlehem

Ashkelon

Gath

Beth-zur

Hebron

Gaza

**Judg. 21:15, “And the people grieved for Benjamin, because the Lord had made a void in the tribes of Israel.**

**Judg. 21:16, “Then the elders of the congregation said, ‘What shall we do for wives for those who remain, since the women of Benjamin have been destroyed?’**

**Judg. 21:17, “And they said, ‘There must be an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin, that a tribe may not be destroyed from Israel.’ ” [NKJV]**



**Again, the problem was their own foolish oath:**

**Judg. 21:18, “ ‘However, we cannot give them wives from our daughters, for the children of Israel have sworn an oath, saying, “Cursed be the one who gives a wife to Benjamin.” ’ ”**

**Judg. 21:19, “Then they said, ‘In fact, there is a yearly feast of the Lord in Shiloh, which is north of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah.’ ” [NKJV]**

**Judg. 21:20, “Therefore they instructed the children of Benjamin, saying, ‘Go, lie in wait in the vineyards,**

**Judg. 21:21, “ ‘and watch; and just when the daughters of Shiloh come out to perform their dances, then come out from the vineyards, and every man catch a wife for himself from the daughters of Shiloh; then go to the land of Benjamin.’ ” [NKJV]**

**Judg. 21:22, “ ‘Then it shall be, when their fathers or their brothers come to us to complain, that we will say to them, “Be kind to them for our sakes, because we did not take a wife for any of them in the war; for it is not as though you have given the women to them at this time, making yourselves guilty of your oath.” ’**

**Judg. 21:23, “And the children of Benjamin did so; they took enough wives for their number from those who danced, whom they caught. Then they went and returned to their inheritance, and they rebuilt the cities and dwelt in them.**

**Judg. 21:24, “So the children of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family; they went out from there, every man to his inheritance.” [NKJV]**

**Heb. 11:32, “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:**

**Heb. 11:33, “who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,**

**Heb. 11:34, “quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.”**

**Heb. 11:35, “Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.**

**Heb. 11:36, “Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.**

**Heb. 11:37, “They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—”**

**Heb. 11:38, “of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.**

**Heb. 11:39, “And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,”**

# 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**

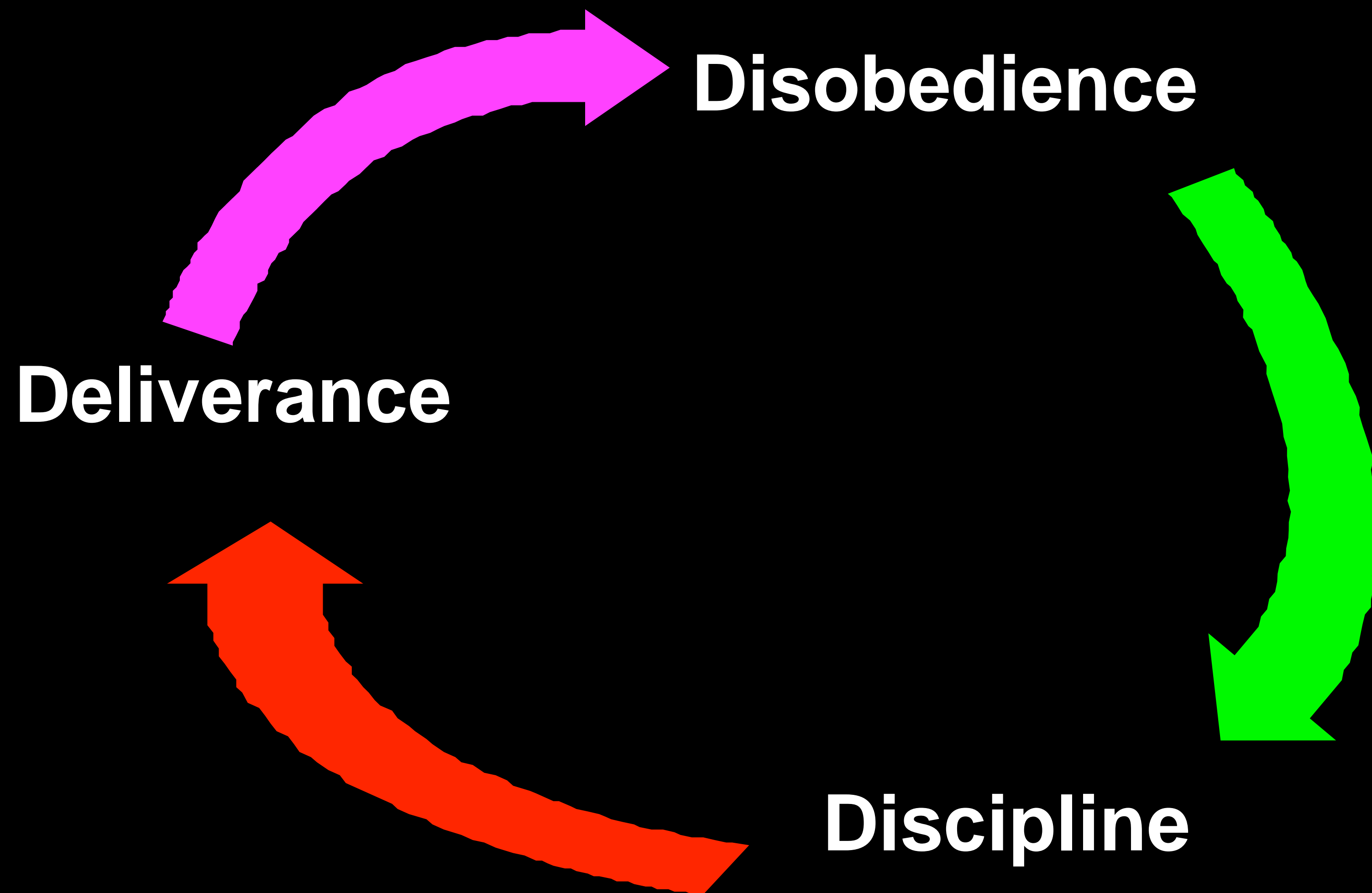
## **Paganization of the Priests**

**Chap. 17–18**

**and the  
People**

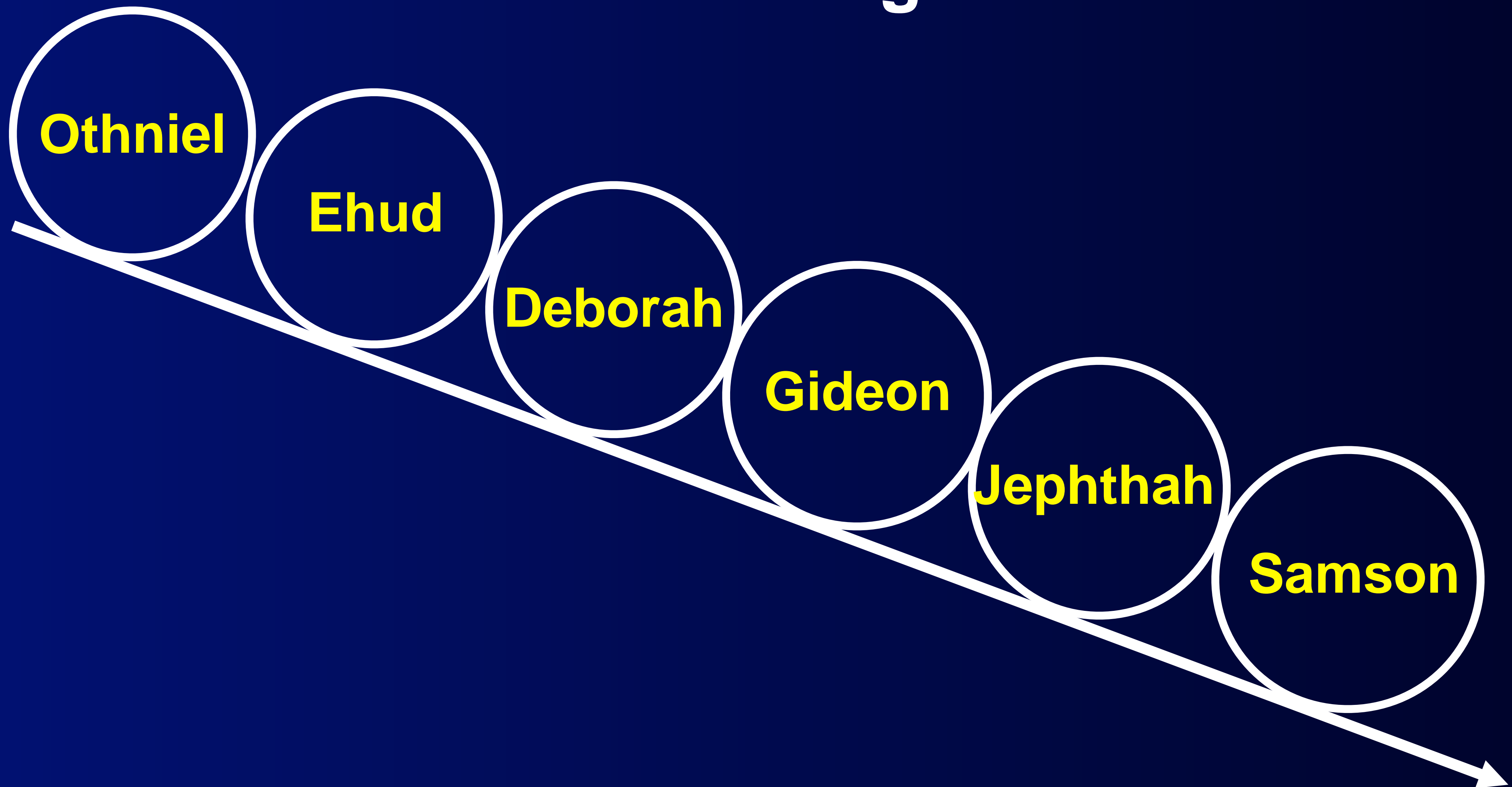
**Chap. 19–21**

# The Cycles of the Judges





# Deterioration of Positive Volition in the Judges



# **Why was Judges written?**

- 1. Judges was written to provide a dark illustration of what happens to the human race, and to a nation, to families and businesses, 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 was 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 was written to show that God is always faithful to us, even when we are faithless.**