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# The Judges of Israel

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Hi, and welcome to Faith with Petra. I'm Petra the author and creator of this blog Faith with Petra.

And today we'll be discussing the Judges of Israel

Israel had a long series of Judges – 13 to be exact. Starting with Othniel after Joshua death and ending with Samson before the kingship of Saul.

The main role of a judge was to deliver Israel from their enemies and restore Israel to God. Allowing peace and protection to reign in the nation of Israel.

The judges were like heroes, rescuing Israel from their enemies who tried to attack them and compromise their peace and inheritance of the land God had given to them. But, unlike heroes we see in our media, the judges' superpowers were not from their own extraordinary ability but was from God. The Spirit of the Lord came upon them. God had chosen those individuals to lead and defend Israel and he empowered them.

Now woefully, although God had raised up judges to rescue and save Israel from external enemies: who raided and plundered their land, within the boundaries of the Israelites hearts they had an enemy that constantly encroached and from whom were never really rescued from. Sin was their constant captor,



which led the Israelites to repeatedly forget and forsake God and His laws.

*“But when the judge died the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their ancestors following other gods and serving and worshipping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.” ~ Judges 2:19*

We see in the book of Judges how the Israelites began to sin and do evil in the eyes of the Lord and even engage in pagan worship. Consequently, the Lord handed them over to raiders and their enemies who plundered them and began to live in their territories that God had led them to and had intended to be theirs forever.

But God being merciful, raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of their enemies.

*“Then the Lord raised up judges who saved them out of the hands of these raiders” - Judges 2:16*

But they were saved for only a short time, because once the judges did save the Israelites and Israel experienced peace they would begin the cycle of: forgetting God, sinning, engaging in pagan worship, enemy raids and attacks, Israel crying out to the Lord, Israel repenting, God provides another judge - REPEAT. As seen in the graphic on the blog this was repeated 13 times over.

For me witnessing the cycle of Israel moral decay and apostasy from God time after time is a key takeaway. It was an unnecessary decline of the nation that was self-induced. Its so important that we do not forget and forsake God but we learn to walk with Him; compromising not our faith with God; but obeying His word completely and being quick to repent if we do



sin. In doing so we will avoid unnecessary cycles of pain and decline.

Also, God is so merciful and uses all kinds of people to be Judges of Israel to accomplish his purpose. Likewise, even though we may not see ourselves as judges or heroes, we can be used to accomplish the purpose God has for us. The Holy Spirit, He is our superpower able to deliver and rescue and save us from the sin and enemies we experience in our lives and this is available to all who submit to God.

OK. Thank you for listening that's me, Petra. Signing off.

