

Judges 7.1-23 - Christ in the Old Testament: The Cycle of Evil and the Power of God's Grace

Introduction: Lead us to worship Jesus not men

Outline of Judges

I. Historical Introduction: Connect to Joshua (Judges 1:1-3:6)

II. The History of the Judges (3:7-16:31)

III. Spiritual and Moral Decline in Israel (17-21)

A. Israel forsakes the Covenant yet God shows kindness.

“And Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord...” 3.7

1. *Relapse*
2. *Retribution*
3. *Repentance*
4. *Rescue*

B. God graciously provides a leader (Judge) named Gideon and God provides a miraculous victory so that he will boast only in God 7.1-23

C. Gideon's story and the book of Judges end poorly.
8.27, 21.25

Conclusion: The leadership of the judges ultimately leaves Israel in need of a God fearing King.

Application:

- Even godly leaders will fail us. Do not place your trust in people but in God.
- Worship Jesus because He keeps the covenant promise for us.
- Forsaking God and then being brought back by His grace is a cycle not just in the book of Judges, but throughout each generation in redemptive history...throughout our lives.
- God's power and grace are manifest to us, as “Jesus grows bigger” in our hearts.