

Judges Series

Lesson #55

May 10, 2022

Dean Bible Ministries

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Gideon's Commission
Judges 6:11–24

JUDGES

2021

When Chaos Was King

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

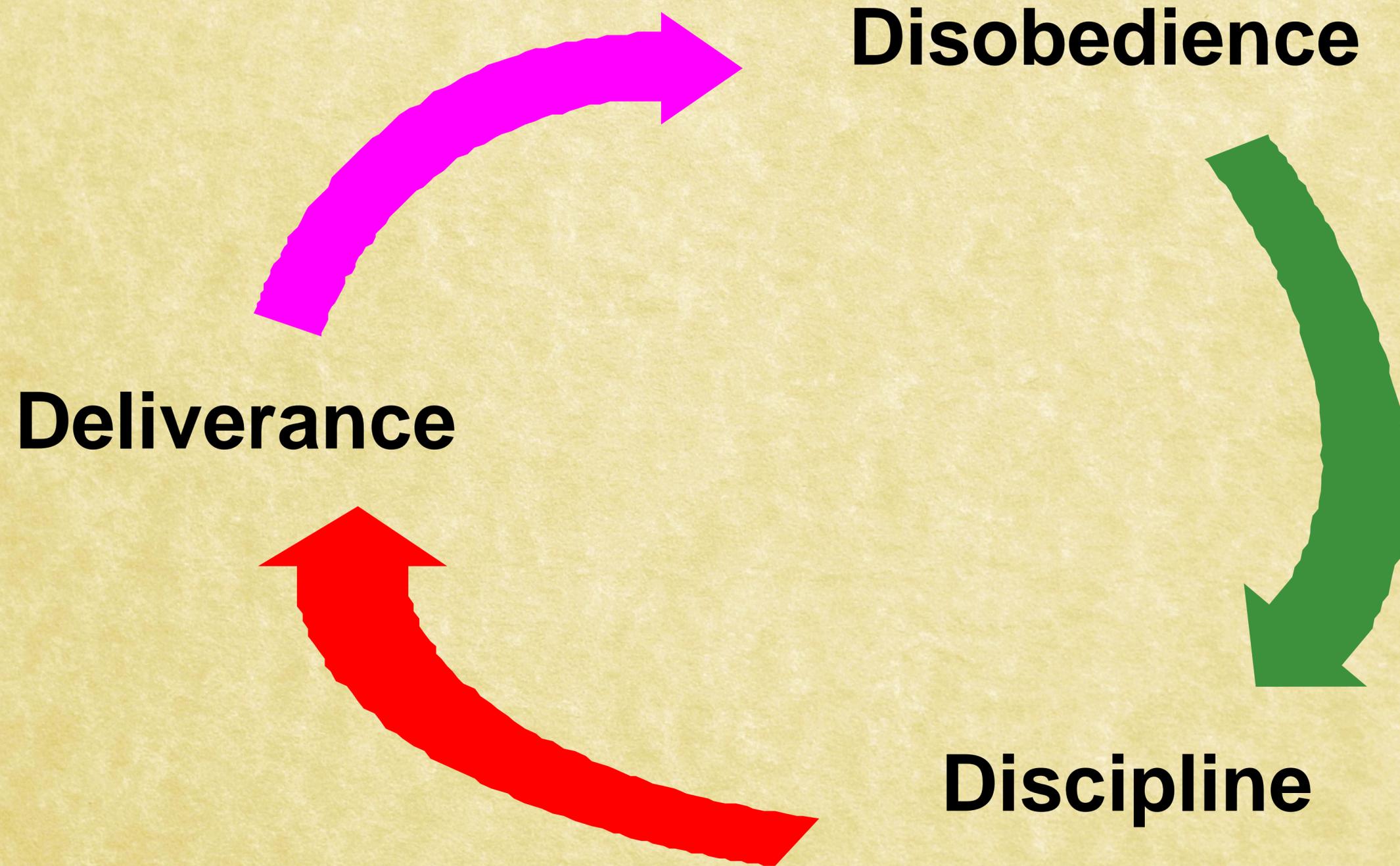
Chap. 17–18

and the

People

Chap. 19–21

The Cycles of the Judges



The Gideon Cycle:

Part 1: The deliverance from the Midianite oppression.

- 1. Apostasy – Judges 6:1—————ONE verse**
- 2. Discipline – Judges 6:1b–6————FIVE verses**
- 3. Deliverance – Judges 6:7–8:35—NINETY-FOUR verses**

Total: 100 verses

Part 2: The story of the first king of Israel, Judges 9

Judg. 6:11, “Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites.”

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The Angel of the Lord is the pre-incarnate Lord Jesus Christ who appeared numerous times in the Old Testament to confirm God’s promises to Israel.

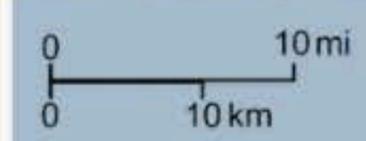
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“Terebinth,” uncertain. Sometimes it is translated an oak, sometimes an elm, but sometimes a pepper tree. But the original meaning is uncertain.

Judg. 6:11, “Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites.”

Gideon and the Israelites Battle the Midianites

-  Possible routes of Midianite, Amalekite, and Eastern forces to Moreh
-  Gideon and his 300 men's route from Harod Spring to Moreh
-  Possible routes of Asherite, Zebulunite, Naphtalite, and Manassite forces to Harod Spring
-  Territory of Asher
-  Territory of Zebulun
-  Territory of Naphtali
-  Territory of West Manasseh



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The Abiezrites were a clan of Manasseh (Josh. 17:2)

Josh. 17:2, “And there was a lot for the rest of the children of Manasseh according to their families: for the children of Abiezer, ...”

***Abiezer = “My Father is the helper”**

Judg. 6:11, “Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites.”

“Gideon” means hacker or hewer, feller; cutter down; one who cuts down; a cutting down. He that bruises; great warrior.



Judg. 6:15, “So he said to Him, ‘O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.’ ” ~NKJV

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Judg. 6:25, “Now it came to pass the same night that the Lord said to him, ‘Take your father’s young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it;

Judg. 6:26, “ ‘and build an altar to the Lord your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down.’ ” ~NKJV

Judg. 6:27, “So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and did as the LORD had said to him. But because he feared his father’s household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he did it by night.”

Parallels with Moses:

1. The commissioning word, שְׁלַחְתִּיךָ, [*shelachtiyka*] “I have sent you” (Judges 6:14; Exod. 3:12);

Ex. 3:11, “But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?’”

Ex. 3:12, “So He said, ‘I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.’ ”

Parallels with Moses:

2. An accompanying fear-inducing fire theophany (Judges 6:22; Exod. 3:2);

Ex. 3:2, “And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.”

Parallels with Moses:

**3. Human protestations of inadequacy (Judges 6:16;
Exod. 3:11)**

Judg. 6:12, “And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, ‘The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!’ ” ~NKJV

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Gen. 26:23, “Then he went up from there to Beersheba.

Gen. 26:24, “And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, ‘I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham’s sake.’

Gen. 26:25, “So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac’s servants dug a well.

Gen. 26:26, “Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath, one of his friends, and Phichol the commander of his army.’ ”

Gen. 26:27, “And Isaac said to them, ‘Why have you come to me, since you hate me and have sent me away from you?’

Gen. 26:28, “But they said, ‘We have certainly seen that the LORD is with you. So we said, “Let there now be an oath between us, between you and us; and let us make a covenant with you,” ’ ”

Gen. 28:15, “Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”

2 Sam. 7:3, “Then Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.’ ”

Isa. 41:10, “Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

Isa. 43:5, “Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west;”

Jer. 1:8, “ ‘Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you,’ says the LORD.”

Jer. 1:19, “ ‘They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you. For I am with you,’ says the LORD, ‘to deliver you.’ ”

Gideon Rejects the Sufficiency of God's Power; cf., 2 Cor. 12

2 Cor. 12:7, “even the exceeding greatness of the revelations, wherefore in order that I might not be arrogantly lifted up, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan to torment me, that I might not be arrogantly lifted up. ~RD

2 Cor. 12:8, “I pleaded with the Lord three times about this thing, that it might depart from me.” ~RD

2 Cor. 12:9, “And He spoke to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made complete in weakness.’ Therefore with pleasure I would rather boast in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may be upon me.

~RD

2 Cor. 12:10, “Therefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, in calamities, in persecutions, and distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” ~RD

Judg. 6:13, “Then Gideon said to him,

‘O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us?

And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, “Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?”

But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.’ ”

Judg. 2:12, “and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger.

Judg. 2:13, “They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.”

Forsook or abandon, the Hebrew [עָזַבְתֶּם qal wawConsec 3 masc plur to forsake, leave] is different in Judges 6:13.

How are we to understand the words, *Mighty Warrior*?

Sarcasm?

Recognizing his position in the village?

Or looking to what he will become?

The people used an *a fortiori argument*, an argument from strength ...

If God could deliver us from Egypt, then He can deliver us from anything we face today!

Rom. 8:32, “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

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IF GOD CAN SOLVE THE GREATEST PROBLEM WE EVER FACE, THEN HE CAN SOLVE ANY OTHER PROBLEM!!

Judg. 6:14, “Then the LORD turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?’” [Truly, I have sent you.]

1. Then the Lord = identification of the Angel of the Lord as *Yhwh*—turned to Gideon.

**2. Is it a question, “Have I not sent you?”
or a statement: Truly, I have sent you!?”**

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or a statement: Truly, I have sent you!?

Verse 16 answers the question.

Gideon then tries to avoid the commission for the first time.

Judg. 6:15, “So he said to Him, ‘O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.’ ”

Judg. 6:16, “And the LORD said to him, ‘Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.’ ”

Ex. 3:12, “So He said, ‘I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.’ ”

Judg. 6:17, “Then he said to Him, ‘If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me.

Judg. 6:18, “ ‘Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You.’ And He said, ‘I will wait until you come back.’ ” ~NKJV

Judg. 6:18, “ ‘Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You.’ And He said, ‘I will wait until you come back.’

Judg. 6:19, “So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them.”

Judg. 6:20, “The Angel of God said to him, ‘Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth.’ And he did so.

Judg. 6:21, “Then the Angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.”

Judg. 6:22, “Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, ‘Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face.’

Judg. 6:23, “Then the LORD said to him, ‘Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die.’ ”

**Judg. 6:24, “So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD,
and called it The–LORD–Is–Peace. To this day it is still in
Ophrah of the Abiezrites.”**