

Judges Series

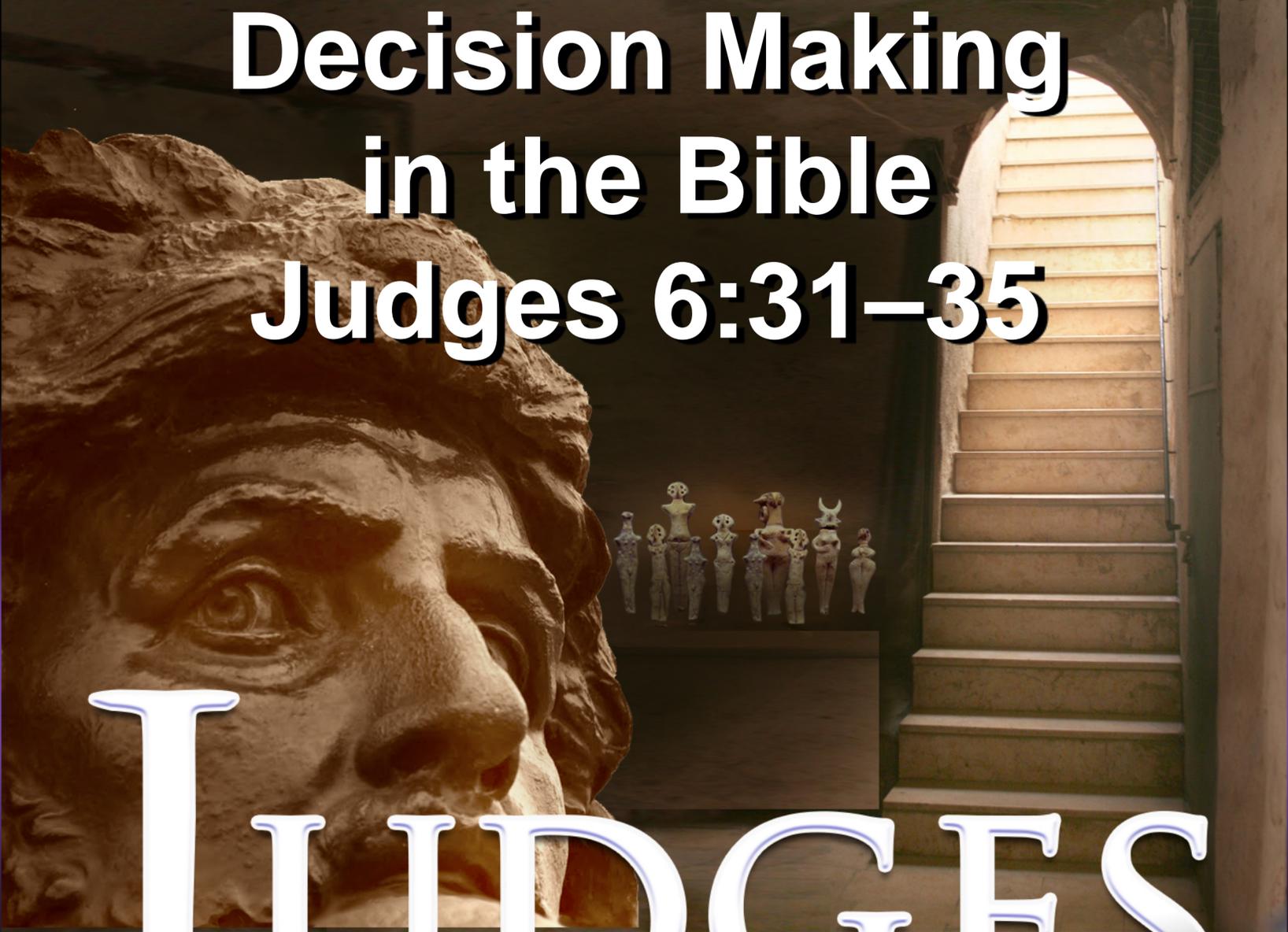
Lesson #61

June 21, 2022

Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbibleministries.org

© 2022, Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.



**Decision Making
in the Bible
Judges 6:31–35**

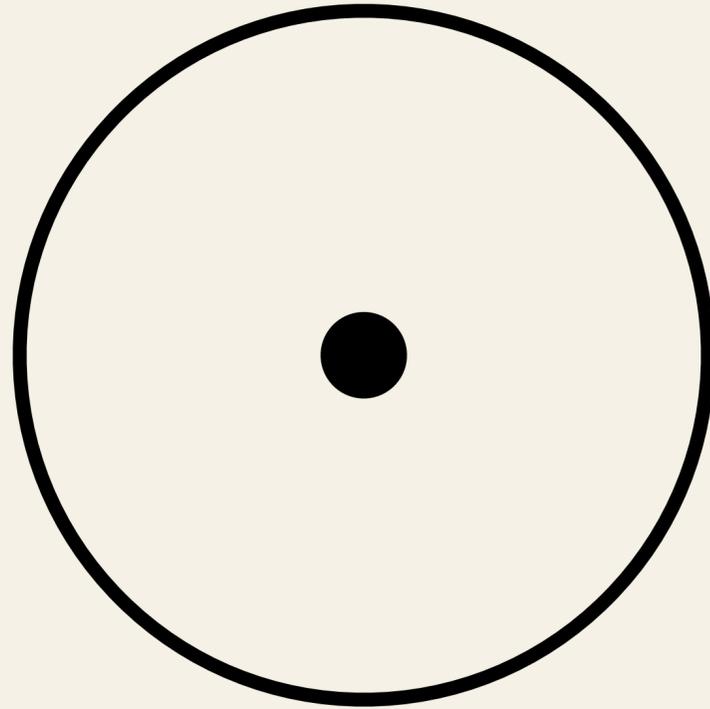
JUDGES

2021

When Chaos Was King

Misconceptions About God's Will

Living in the Center of God's Will



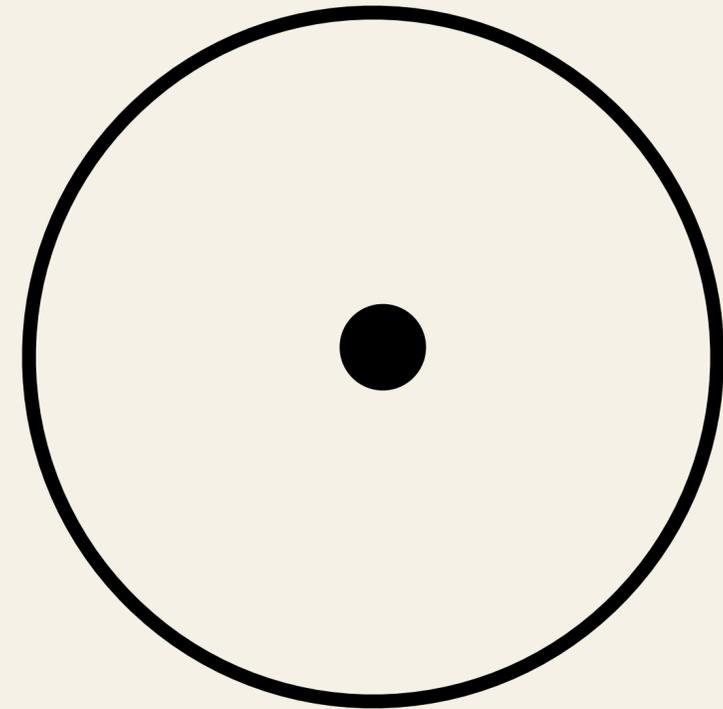
Living in the Center of God's Will

God has a specific will for how and what each believer thinks.

God always has a specific operational will for each believer.

God always has a specific geographical will for every believer.

God always has a specific will for every decision we make in life.



Clarifying the Terms

1. The term “will of God” describes three aspects of divine volition in relation to His creation.

a. God's sovereign will with regard to His creation, where He brings to pass what He wills and what He has decreed.

Decretive will of God: what God decreed would happen

Sovereign will of God: what God willed would happen

Secret will of God: not revealed, what God determined would happen

Permissive will of God: what God allows to happen

God's sovereign will included allowing or permitting sin, rebellion, and all that flows from that.

We only know this after the fact.

b. God's moral will, sometimes also called His revealed will: this refers to what God has revealed man is to do. This is also called God's desired will.

The Torah expressed God's moral will for Israel. Some of it is His moral will which is also for all mankind. But the Law was Israel's national constitution.

God expressed His specific geographical will or specific operational will through special revelation, i.e., ...

Gen. 12:1, “Now the LORD had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.’ ”

Ex. 3:10, “Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

Josh. 1:2, “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.

Josh. 1:3, “Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.”

Judg. 6:14, “Then the LORD turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours, and you shall deliver Israel from the hand of the Midianites. I have sent you,’ ~RD

Judg. 6:15, “So he said to Him, ‘O my Lord, how can I deliver Israel? Look, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my family.’ ~RD

Judg. 6:16, “And the LORD said to him, ‘I will be with you, and you shall strike down the Midianite army as one man.’ ” ~RD

c. God's specific will, functional, operational, or geographical, is always expressed through special revelation or through His behind-the-scenes orchestration of events.

We cannot miss the geographical will of God, if there is one, i.e., Jonah.

d. God's overriding will.

When we make decisions contrary to God's specific geographical or operational will, He prevents us from accomplishing those decisions.

Example: Jonah

Jonah 2:10, "So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Jonah 3:1, "Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,

Jonah 3:2, " 'Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.'

Jonah 3:3, "So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD."

The Wisdom View:

- 1. God's Word is sufficient for us to make every decision in life. This alone precludes any kind of additional verbal or non-verbal revelation, including impressions, intuitions, emotions, feelings.**

2. The traditional view believes that the Bible provides guidance for most decisions in life, but in many individual decisions, God's additional revelation is necessary. In other words, the traditional view must agree that the Bible is not sufficient for everything in life.

3. All of the examples of individual will found in Scripture involve direct revelation from God through visions, God speaking, supernatural guidance, the direction of a prophet in the Old Testament, or apostle or prophet in the New Testament.

15. Often, decisions in life are not related as much to the final decision as testing the process of deciding. In these cases God does not have a specific geographical or operational will in mind. He is testing the process of application of doctrine in the decision-making process.

16. Num. 22:12–26 reveals three categories of God’s will.

Revealed will of God: Balaam do not go to Moab. Num. 22:12

Num. 22:12, “And God said to Balaam, ‘You shall not go with them [Lo with qal imperfect verb, absolute universal prohibition**]; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.’ ”**

Permissive will of God: Balaam was allowed to go to Moab.
Num. 22:20

Num. 22:20, “And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, ‘If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you—that you shall do.’ ”

Overruling will of God: Num. 23:5, 15, 26

Num. 23:5, “Then the LORD put a word in Balaam’s mouth, and said, ‘Return to Balak, and thus you shall speak.’ ”

Num. 23:15, “And he said to Balak, ‘Stand here by your burnt offering while I meet the LORD over there.’ ”

Num. 23:26, “So Balaam answered and said to Balak, ‘Did I not tell you, saying, “All that the LORD speaks, that I must do”?’ ”

Even if you make the wrong decision related to God's geographic will or operational will, His overriding will kicks in and resolves the problem.

17. Decision making and wisdom. Acts 15:6–22

Acts 15:13, “And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, ‘Men and brethren, listen to me:’ ”

Acts 15:19, “Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God,”

17. Decision making and wisdom. Acts 15

Acts 15:22, “Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren.”

Acts 15:25, “it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,”

Acts 15:28, “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things.”

Acts 15:34, “However, it seemed good to Silas to remain there.”

**Acts 15:36, “And after some days Paul said to Barnabas,
‘Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which
we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they
are.’ ”**

Acts 20:16, “For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus in order that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.”

Rom. 1:10, “always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

Rom. 1:11, “For I long to see you in order that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;

Rom. 1:12, “that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other’s faith, both yours and mine.

Rom. 1:13, “And I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented thus far) in order that I might obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.”

1 Cor. 16:4, “and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me.

1 Cor. 16:5, “But I shall come to you after I go through Macedonia, for I am going through Macedonia;

1 Cor. 16:6, “and perhaps I shall stay with you, or even spend the winter, that you may send me on my way wherever I may go.

1 Cor. 16:7, “For I do not wish to see you now just in passing; for I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits.

1 Cor. 16:8, “But I shall remain in Ephesus until Pentecost;

1 Cor. 16:9, “for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”

18. In every incident of a specific will of God it is known only through special revelation. Either through visions, the direct communication of the Holy Spirit, the audible voice of God, by direction of a prophet.

Eph. 5:1, “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

Eph. 5:2, “And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

Eph. 5:8, “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Eph. 5:9, “(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

Eph. 5:10, “finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.”

Eph. 5:15, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

Eph. 5:16, “by redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Eph. 5:17, “Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Eph. 5:18, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,”

1 Thess. 5:16, “Rejoice always,

1 Thess. 5:17, “pray without ceasing,

1 Thess. 5:18, “in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thess. 5:19, “Do not quench the Spirit.

1 Thess. 5:20, “Do not despise prophecies.

1 Thess. 5:21, “Test all things; hold fast what is good.

1 Thess. 5:22, “Abstain from every form of evil.”

Phil. 4:4, “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Phil. 4:5, “Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

Phil. 4:6, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Phil. 4:7, “and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Phil. 4:8, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Phil. 4:9, “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”