

Judges Series

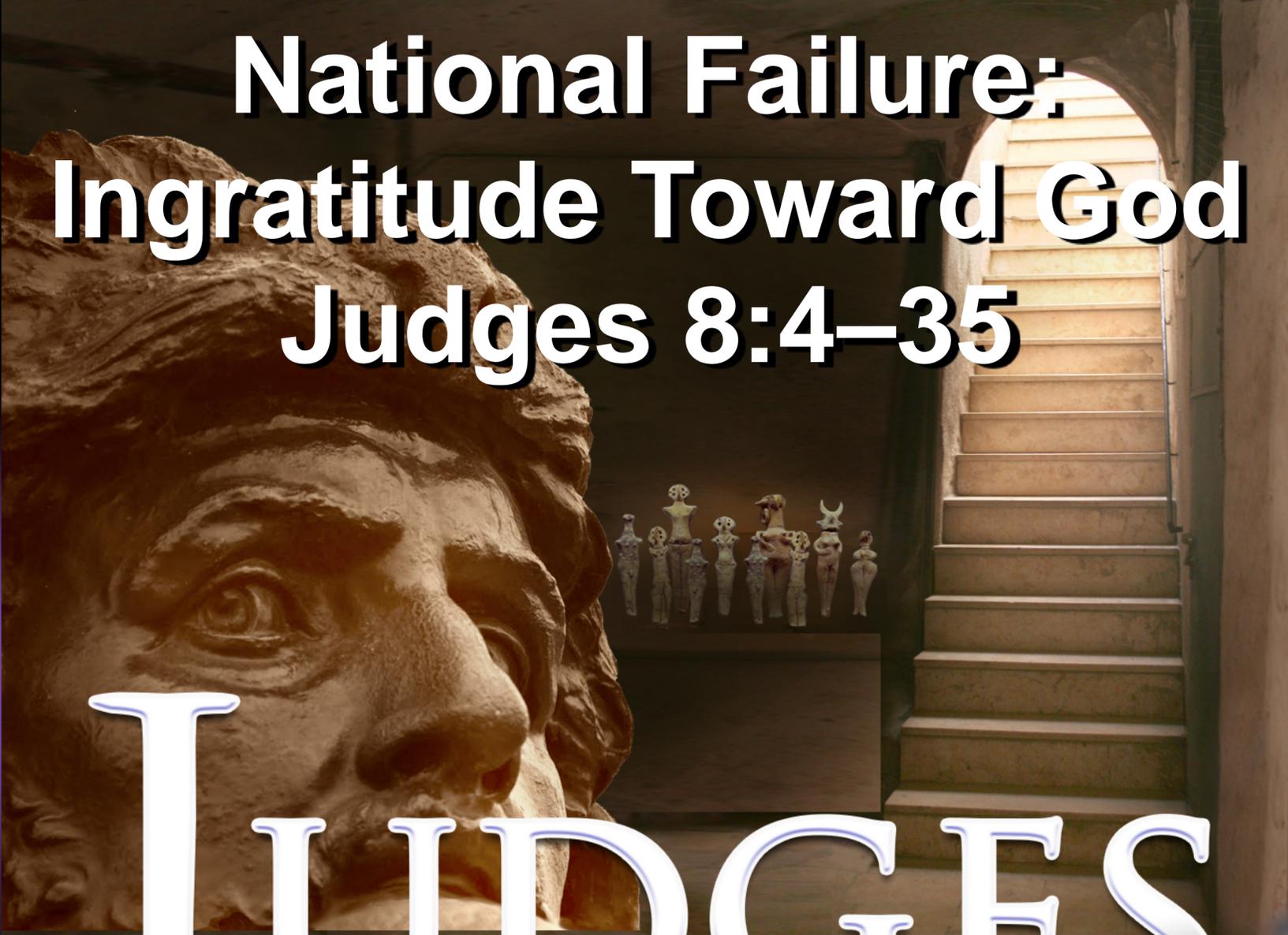
Lesson #67

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**National Failure:
Ingratitude Toward God
Judges 8:4–35**

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

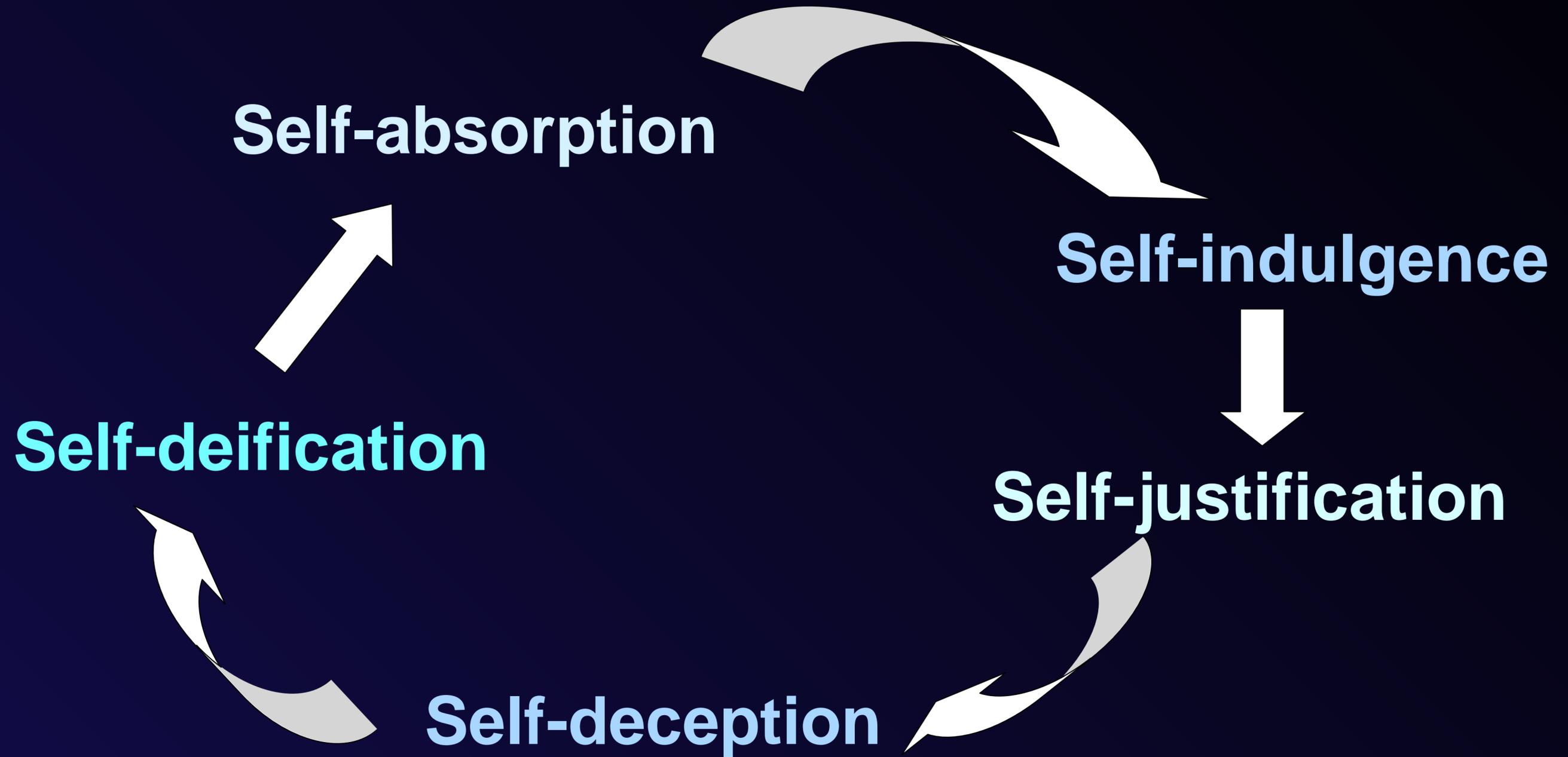
Chap. 19–21

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.”

The Cycle of Arrogance Skills



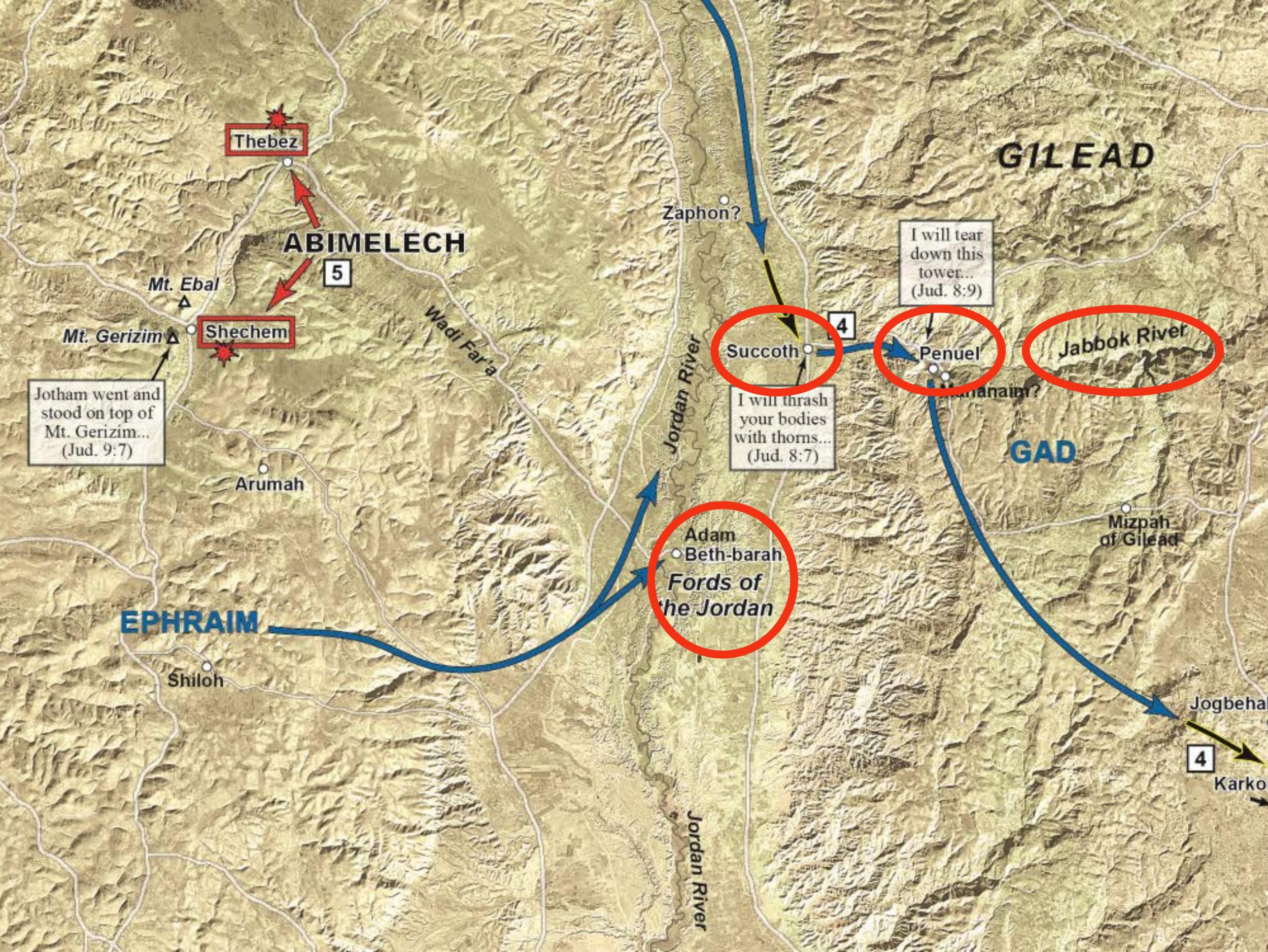
Ephraim's Anger

Judg. 8:1, “Now the men of Ephraim said to him, ‘Why have you done this to us by not calling us when you went to fight with the Midianites?’ And they reprimanded him sharply.

Judg. 8:2, “So he said to them, ‘What have I done now in comparison with you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?’

Judg. 8:3, “ ‘God has delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. And what was I able to do in comparison with you?’ Then their anger toward him subsided when he said that.” ~NKJV

**Succoth, Penuel, and Gideon's Anger and the Pursuit of
Zebah and Zalmunnah, the two kings, Judges 8:4–9**



Judg. 8:4,
“When Gideon
came to the
Jordan, he
and the three
hundred men
who were with
him crossed
over, wearily
pursuing.”
~RD

Succoth, Penuel, and Gideon's Anger and the Pursuit of Zebah and Zalmunnah, the two kings, Judges 8:4–9

Judg. 8:5, “Then he said to the men of Succoth, ‘Please give loaves of bread to the people who follow me, for they are exhausted, and I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.’ ” ~NKJV



Succoth, Penuel, and Gideon's Anger and the Pursuit of Zebah and Zalmunnah, the two kings, Judges 8:4–9

Judg. 8:6, “And the leaders of Succoth said, ‘Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?’

Judg. 8:7, “So Gideon said, ‘For this cause, when the Lord has delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briars!’ ” ~NKJV

Succoth, Penuel, and Gideon's Anger and the Pursuit of Zebah and Zalmunnah, the two kings, Judges 8:4–9

Judg. 8:8, “Then he went up from there to Penuel and spoke to them in the same way. And the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered.”

~NKJV

Succoth, Penuel, and Gideon's Anger and the Pursuit of Zebah and Zalmunnah, the two kings, Judges 8:4–9

Judg. 8:9, “So he also spoke to the men of Penuel, saying, ‘When I come back in peace, I will tear down this tower!’ ”

~NKJV

Judg. 8:10, “Now Zebah and Zalmunna were at Karkor, and their armies with them, about fifteen thousand, all who were left of all the army of the people of the East; for one hundred and twenty thousand men who drew the sword had fallen.” ~NKJV

Judg. 8:16, “And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taught the men of Succoth.

Judg. 8:17, “Then he tore down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of the city.” ~NKJV

**הרג *harag* qal
perf 2 masc
plur
“destroy, kill,
murder, slay,
execute
judicially”**

**II. Justice Transformed into Vengeance:
Self-centeredness is at the core of paganism,
Judges 8:18–21**

Judg. 8:18, “Then he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, ‘What kind of men were they whom you killed at Tabor?’ And they said, ‘They were like you, each one resembling the son of a king.’

Judg. 8:19, “And he said, ‘They were my brothers, the sons of my mother. As the LORD lives, if only you had let them live, I would not kill you.’

Judg. 8:20, “So he said to Jether his first-born, ‘Rise, kill them.’ But the youth did not draw his sword, for he was afraid, because he was still a youth.

Judg. 8:21, “Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, ‘Rise up yourself, and fall on us; for as the man, so is his strength.’ So Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and took the crescent ornaments which were on their camels’ necks.”

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Gideon's Failure

Judg. 8:22, “Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, ‘Rule over us, both you and your son, and your grandson also; for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian.’

Judg. 8:23, “But Gideon said to them, ‘I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you.’ ” ~NKJV

Judg. 8:24, “Yet Gideon said to them, ‘I would request of you, that each of you give me an earring from his spoil.’ (For they had gold earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.)

Judg. 8:25, “And they said, ‘We will surely give them.’ So they spread out a garment, and every one of them threw an earring there from his spoil.

Judg. 8:26, “And the weight of the gold earrings that he requested was 1,700 shekels of gold, besides the crescent ornaments and the pendants and the purple robes which were on the kings of Midian, and besides the neck bands that were on their camels’ necks.”

Judg. 8:27, “Then Gideon made it into an ephod and set it up in his city, Ophrah. And all Israel played the harlot with it there. It became a snare to Gideon and to his house.

Judg. 8:28, “Thus Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted their heads no more. And the country was quiet for forty years in the days of Gideon.”

~NKJV

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**Judg. 8:28, “Thus Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted their heads no more. And the country was quiet for forty years in the days of Gideon.”
~NKJV**

Judg. 2:3, “Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.’ ”

Judg. 8:29, “Then Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and dwelt in his own house.

Judg. 8:30, “Gideon had seventy sons who were his own offspring, for he had many wives.

Judg. 8:31, “And his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, whose name he called Abimelech.

Judg. 8:32, “Now Gideon the son of Joash died at a good old age, and was buried in the tomb of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.” ~NKJV

Judg. 8:33, “So it was, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-Berith their god.

Judg. 8:34, “Thus the children of Israel did not remember the Lord their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side;

Judg. 8:35, “nor did they show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal (Gideon) in accordance with the good he had done for Israel.” ~NKJV

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

**Thankfulness to God
Gratitude**



1. Etymology and definition:

“Gratitude” derives from the Latin, *gratia*, related to both grace, favor, kindness and the response to kindness.

2. Gratitude is expressed as appreciation, acknowledgment, appreciativeness, gratefulness, recognition, thankfulness.

Rom. 1:21, “For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

3. Gratitude therefore is directly related to grace orientation. Grace orientation is the fourth stress buster or spiritual skill.

Characteristics of Grace orientation

- **Understanding grace at salvation, grace in confession, grace from God, and grace toward others.**
- **Relaxed mental attitude, because we are dependent on God's grace we can relax under pressure.**
- **The details of life are not our source of happiness, joy, or stability.**

4. Capacity for genuine gratitude develops from the understanding salvation and what God has done for us.

Psa. 118:21, “I shall give thanks to Thee, for Thou hast answered me; And Thou hast become my salvation.”

5. As we learn about our salvation, gratitude expands toward God in direct proportion to doctrine assimilated in the soul.

6. Therefore gratitude begins with making doctrine the highest priority in life.

Psa. 138:2, “I will bow down toward Thy holy temple, and give thanks to Thy name for Thy lovingkindness and Thy truth; For Thou hast magnified Thy word according to all Thy name.”

7. Gratitude therefore is directed toward God. It begins with our understanding of salvation and develops through our understanding of God's character.

8. Gratitude then is directed toward God and is a barometer of our capacity for fellowship with God and becomes the basis for enjoying the joy of Christ which He has given us.

9. Scripture:

Psa. 7:17, “I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.”

Psa. 97:12, “Be glad in the LORD, you righteous ones; And give thanks to His holy name.”

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

Eph. 5:20, “always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;”

Col. 2:7, “having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”

Col. 1:12, “giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.”

10. The first enemy of Gratitude is arrogance—the arrogance skills are self-absorption, self-indulgence, self-justification, self-deception, self-deification.

11. The second enemy is the worldly or *kosmic* thinking:

- autonomy or independence from God**
- antagonism to God's Word and doctrine.**

12. Therefore, we cannot begin to properly orient to the teaching of Scripture, Bible doctrine, if we don't first orient to grace.

Psa. 138:2, “I will bow down toward Thy holy temple, and give thanks to Thy name for Thy lovingkindness and Thy truth; For Thou hast magnified Thy Word according to all Thy name.”