

THOSE JUDGES!!! 16:1-4

For the individual and the era:

1. The Judges are complicated!

Judges 16:1 Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her. **Judges 16:2** And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him. **Judges 16:3** And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron. **Judges 16:4** And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of **Sorek** (שֹׁרֵק), whose name was Delilah.

Sampson:

Harlot = prostitute	He “went in”	He found himself surrounded
An unbelievable feat	In love with Delilah	Sorek (שֹׁרֵק)

Thoughts:

- People are complicated
- Life is complicated
- Both are complicated **by** sin → of all varieties!

Sin nature, sinful choices, original sin, the effects of sin in this world....

- Complicated people do good things → sometimes very good things
- Complicated people do evil things → sometimes very evil things
- Complicated people lead complicated lives **with** complicated outcomes

1 Kings 8:46 If they sin against thee, (**for there is no man that sinneth not,**) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near;

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For there is **not** a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth **not**.

Job 32:7 I said, Days should speak, And multitude of years should teach wisdom.

Job 32:9 Great men are **not** always wise: **Neither** do the aged understand judgment.

Job 42:1 Then Job answered the LORD, and said, **Job 42:2** I know that thou canst do every thing, And that no thought can be withholden from thee. **Job 42:3** Who is he that hideth counsel Without knowledge? Therefore have I uttered that I understood not; Things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. **Job 42:4** Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. **Job 42:5** I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: But now mine eye seeth thee. **Job 42:6** Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent In dust and ashes.

“The best of men are at best yet men!”

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

2 Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

Zechariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, Saith the LORD of hosts.

Life will contain many complications that are beyond our control – or even our ability to predict!

2. The Judges are chaotic!

Judges 17:6 In those days there was **no** king in Israel, but **every man did that which was right in his own eyes**.

Judges 18:1 In those days there was **no** king in Israel: and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought them an inheritance to dwell in; for unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.

Judges 19:1 And it came to pass in those days, when there was **no** king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite sojourning on the side of mount Ephraim, who took to him a concubine out of Beth-lehem-judah. **Judges 19:2** And his concubine played the whore against him, and went away from him unto her father’s house to Beth-lehem-judah, and was there four whole months. **Judges 19:3** And her husband arose, and went after her, to speak friendly unto her, and to bring her again, having his servant with him, and a couple of asses: and she brought him into her father’s house: and when the father of the damsel saw him, he rejoiced to meet him.

Judges 19:4 And his father in law, the damsel’s father, retained him; and he abode with him three days: so they did eat and drink, and lodged there.

Judges 21:25 In those days there was **no** king in Israel: **every man did that which was right in his own eyes**.

When we read Judges we encounter:

- **Apostasy: the repeated abandoning of the living God**
- **Worship of local gods**
- **Enemies, enemies and more enemies**
- **Leaders**
- **Weak leaders!**
- **Wrong leaders → who are very good!**
- **Corrupt leaders**
- **Weird leaders**
- **Crazy**
- **Chaos**
- **Indescribable events!**

We all like...simple, stable, normal...or do we...?

Some like drama

Some cause drama

Some are chaotic and even like it!

A few can't deal with any chaos → but cannot possibly eliminate it

3. The Judges are cyclical!

Judges 1:1 NOW **after the death of Joshua it came to pass**, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?

Judges 2:8 And **Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died**, being an hundred and ten years old.

Judges 2:10 And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew **not** the LORD, **nor** yet the works which he had done for Israel. **Judges 2:11** And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim: **Judges 2:12** And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger. **Judges 2:13** And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth. **Judges 2:14** And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. **Judges 2:15** Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed.

Judges 2:16 **Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.**

Judges 2:17 And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so.

Judges 2:18 And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. **Judges 2:19** And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.



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