

CORAM DEO JUDGES 13:1

Religion was common in the ANE. In fact it was ubiquitous. Every culture had their gods...
Smaller regions / cities / villages had their own m of their god / gods...
This is why we often read of Baalim & Ashtaroth

Why was religion so popular?

- **It was local / localized: you created religion the way you like it**
- **Beneficial: gods give good luck and help you make choices**
- **Useful: god of fertility, rain, etc.**
- **Ceremonial / external: religion was just ceremony and didn't impact real life**
- **Emotional: religion + alcohol + sex**
- **(Highly) impersonal: meaning you had no relationship with your god**

Coram Deo:

1. We live before the face of God!

Judges 13:1 And the children of Israel did evil again **in the sight of the LORD** (יהוה יראו); and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

We could (and have) produced many arguments for the historicity & truthfulness of Scripture but not this now.

What is a Biblical faith like?

- **It is universal**
- **It is moral**
- **It is personal**
- **It is also communal**
- **It is historical**

John 10:27 My sheep **hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:**

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, **The Lord knoweth them that are his.** And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

We understand that this language is using human analogy – as if God has

Judges 13:1 And the children of Israel did evil again **in the sight of the LORD** (יהוה יראו); and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

Judges 2:11 And the children of Israel did evil **in the sight of the LORD** (יהוה יראו), 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 3:7 And the children of Israel did evil **in the sight of the LORD** (יהוה יראו), and forgot the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves.

Judges 3:12 And the children of Israel did evil again **in the sight of the LORD** (בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה): and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD.

Judges 4:1 And the children of Israel again did evil **in the sight of the LORD** (בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה), when Ehud was dead. **Judges 4:2** And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles.

Judges 6:1 And the children of Israel did evil **in the sight of the LORD** (בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה): and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. **Judges 6:2** And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds.

Judges 10:6 And the children of Israel did evil again **in the sight of the LORD** (בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה), and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him. **Judges 10:7** And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon.

It is quite easy to miss the point in all the negative behavior:

- God “sees”
- God knows
- God knows us **both** as an individual & communal
- God can be known
- The best way to live is to live Coram Deo!

This becomes difficult to hear:

- **This is the theme of the book**

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

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

- **Samson modeled the theme!!!**

Judges 14:3 Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; **for she pleaseth me well** (כִּי־הִיא יִשְׂרָהּ בְּעֵינָי).

Judges 14:7 And he went down, and talked with the woman; **and she pleased Samson well** (לְאִשָּׁה וַתִּישָׂר (בְּעֵינָי שָׁמְשׁוֹן).

- **This behavior cost Samson his eyes**

Judges 16:21 But the Philistines took him, and put out **his eyes** (וְאָתְּ-עֵינָיו), and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

Judges 16:28 And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for **my two eyes** (מִשְׁתֵּי עֵינָי).