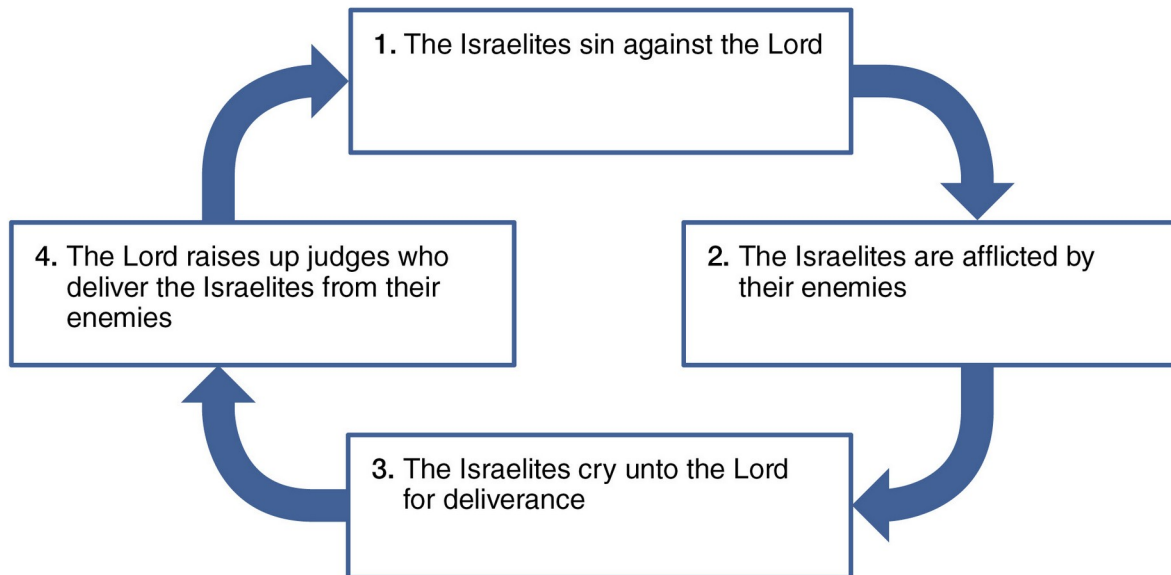


May 30–June 5  
Judges 2–4; 6–8; 13–16  
“The Lord Raised Up a Deliverer”

The Cycle of Sin and Deliverance in the Book of Judges



# Captivity and Delivery

Judg 2:7-11

What reason is given for the Israelites returning to the wickedness?

## Dieter F. Uchtdorf

"Despite the astonishing heavenly interventions, visitations, rescues, and miraculous victories the children of Israel witnessed during the lifetimes of Moses and Joshua, within a generation the people had abandoned the Way and began walking according to their own desires. And, of course, it did not take long before they paid the price for that behavior....

"No matter how strong our spiritual experiences have been in the past, as human beings we tend to wander. That has been the pattern from the days of Adam until now." (CR, Oct. 2021)



# Captivity and Delivery

Judg 2:16-17

## Mark E. Petersen

“But the Lord has infinite patience. He had pledged to Moses and Joshua that he would bring his people into the land of milk and honey, which Palestine was at that time, and had promised them great prosperity, even with peace, if they would serve him. In spite of their apostate ways, he still endeavored to keep his promise to Abraham by saving this stubborn people from themselves.

“The Lord determined upon a new form of government... [and] from among the people he ‘raised up judges’ as deliverers and leaders in their battles, but also to provide some semblance of centralized authority.

“Some of these judges reigned for as long as forty years, and under their rule peace prevailed at times. Some of the judges were fighters, too, great leaders in the battles of the Israelites, and in many instances they won significant victories.

”And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods...” (Three Kings of Israel, pg. 10)

# Captivity and Delivery

Judg 2:1-3

Why would the Lord no long help Israel drive out the Canaanites?



## Sidney B. Sperry

"Israel's conduct during this period had a lasting effect upon her religion and morals. For centuries Israel's prophets and wise men referred to it and denounced her allegiance to old Canaanite practices. It is plain that Israel, during the period of the Judges, compromised her relatively high religious ideals with Canaanite practices and certain elements in her population must have apostatized completely." (Spirit of the Old Testament, pg. 51–52)

## Joshua 2:20-22

20 And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice;

21 I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died:

22 That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the Lord to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not.



# Deborah

Judg 4:1-5

# Deborah

Judg 4:6-9

What did Deborah remind Barak that the Lord had commanded him to do?

What had the Lord promised He would do if Barak was obedient?

What condition did Barak give before he would do what the Lord had commanded?

# Gideon

Judg 7:12



# Gideon

Judg 6:12-16

How did Gideon react when the Lord called him to deliver Israel from the innumerable army of the Midianites and the Amalekites?

## James E. Faust

“The Lord has a great work for each of us to do. You may wonder how this can be. You may feel that there is nothing special or superior about you or your ability. Perhaps you feel, or have been told, that you are stupid. Many of us have felt that and some of us have been told that. Gideon felt this when the Lord asked him to save Israel from the Midianites....

“The Lord can do remarkable miracles with a person of ordinary ability who is humble, faithful, and diligent in serving the Lord and seeks to improve himself. This is because God is the ultimate source of power.” (CR, Oct. 1995)

# Gideon

Judg 7:1-4,7

Why did the Lord want Gideon to reduce his army to just 300 men?



## Robert J. Matthews

“This is an example of the way the Lord works-not by physical or worldly force but by divine power and miracles.... The principle involved here is expressed in this New Testament scripture: ‘God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty’ (1 Cor 1:27-29). We see the principle at work again in the episode of David and Goliath and in the account of Gideon's victory with his army of three hundred men, a number reduced from a larger one. The Israelites had to believe that God would deliver them, over and beyond what they could do themselves. They were not to trust in the arm of flesh. This is still the way the Lord works among the children of men today.” (A Bible! A Bible!, pg. 62)

# Gideon

Judg 7:19-21

# Samson

Judg 13:1-5,24

What does it mean to be a Nazarite?



# Samson

Judg 14:5-6

What was it that gave Samson his great strength?

# Samson

Judg 14:19

Again, what was it that gave Samson his great strength?

# Samson

Judg 16:17-20

Why was the Lord no longer with Sampson?



## Wilford Woodruff

“I have seen Oliver Cowdery when it seemed as though the earth trembled under his feet. I never heard a man bear a stronger testimony than he did when under the influence of the Spirit. But the moment he left the kingdom of God, that moment his power fell like lightning from heaven. He was shorn of his strength, like Samson in the lap of Delilah. He lost the power and testimony which he had enjoyed, and he never recovered it again in its fulness while in the flesh.... It does not pay a man to sin or to do wrong.” (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Wilford Woodruff, pg. 105)

# Samson

Judg 16:26-30

## Victor L. Ludlow

“As Delilah cut Samson's hair, his vow was broken, and the Lord's power departed from him.

“When a Nazarite vow or covenant was broken, it was sometimes possible to renew the vow after a period of repentance. (Num. 6:9-12.) Apparently Samson went through a period of repentance and recommitment because he again received extraordinary strength as he destroyed the Philistine temple and his own life.

“Tragedy came upon Samson because as he broke one commandment (morality) he lost the Spirit of the Lord. This led to his breaking other covenants and resulted in weakness, blindness, slavery, and death (both physical and spiritual).” (Unlocking the Old Testament, pg. 72)



Next Week:

June 6–12

Ruth; 1 Samuel 1–3

“My Heart Rejoiceth in the Lord”

