

Judges: The Prologue 1:1-3:6

YouTube channel: [Chris Nazarian](#)

For the previous video follow this link to YouTube: [Judges: An Overview](#)

Political Decline (people to people)

- Israel fights the people of the land 1:1-10
 - Adoni-bezek
 - The brutality begins
 - “God has paid me back”
- The strong men of God: Caleb and Othniel 1:11-15
 - Othniel will become the first judge
 - Achsah is a shrewd and wise wife; she sets the stage for women in Judges
- “They did not drive out the people...”
 - 1:19, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33
 - Dan is forced out of their allotted territory 1:34
- The tribe of Joseph acts with cunning 1:22-26
 - Reminiscent of spies at Jericho
 - Joshua 2:1-24

- Confrontation with the angel of the LORD 2:1-5
 - Recites the exodus story and covenant
 - “But you have not obeyed...”
- Consequences for Israel’s disobedience
 - People of the land will be adversaries
 - Foreign gods will be a snare

Practical Application: Obedience is for your own good!!

- Israel did not do it God’s way, consequences followed
 - It is for Israel’s benefit to drive out the people, destroy their gods, and leave their women alone
 - Their lack of obedience results in losing God
 - Israel wept, but did not repent; they merely offered sacrifice
- God gives you commands to bless you, not stifle you
 - Consider Jesus and the Sermon on the Mount
 - What kind of life would you have if you followed Jesus’ commandments?
 - Would there be more of Jesus or less of Jesus in your life if you followed them?

Religious Decline (people to God)

- The importance of parenting 2:6-11
 - How was the generation of Joshua faithful, but the next generation not?
 - “The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the LORD...”
- The downward spiral 2:11-19
 - Israel does what is evil in the sight of Yahweh
 - Israel abandons Yahweh and worships foreign gods
 - Yahweh’s anger is kindled
 - Yahweh hands them over to their adversaries
 - Israel is overtaken
 - Yahweh is moved by their crying
 - Yahweh raises up judges to deliver
 - Yahweh was with the judge
 - Yahweh delivers Israel
 - Israel saw deliverance all the days of the judge
 - Israel relapsed when the judge died

- Recapitulation of 2:1-3 in 2:20-21
 - Yahweh will not drive out because of disobedience
- Yahweh tests Israel for obedience 2:22 - 3:1
 - Yahweh already knows the results, the test is for Israel's good
 - To train Israel for war
 - Test generational obedience
 - Egypt(Moses), wilderness(Joshua), promised land(Judges)

Practical Application: Who is your king?

- We become like our king
 - As go the leadership, so go the people
 - Example: children become like the parents
- Judges shows us the desire to shift from Yahweh to a human king
 - The downward spiral is filled with pain, suffering, brutality, treachery, and cunning
 - Is this how you want your life to be characterized?
 - Judges shows the outcome of rejecting Yahweh so you don't have to live it

Next time...

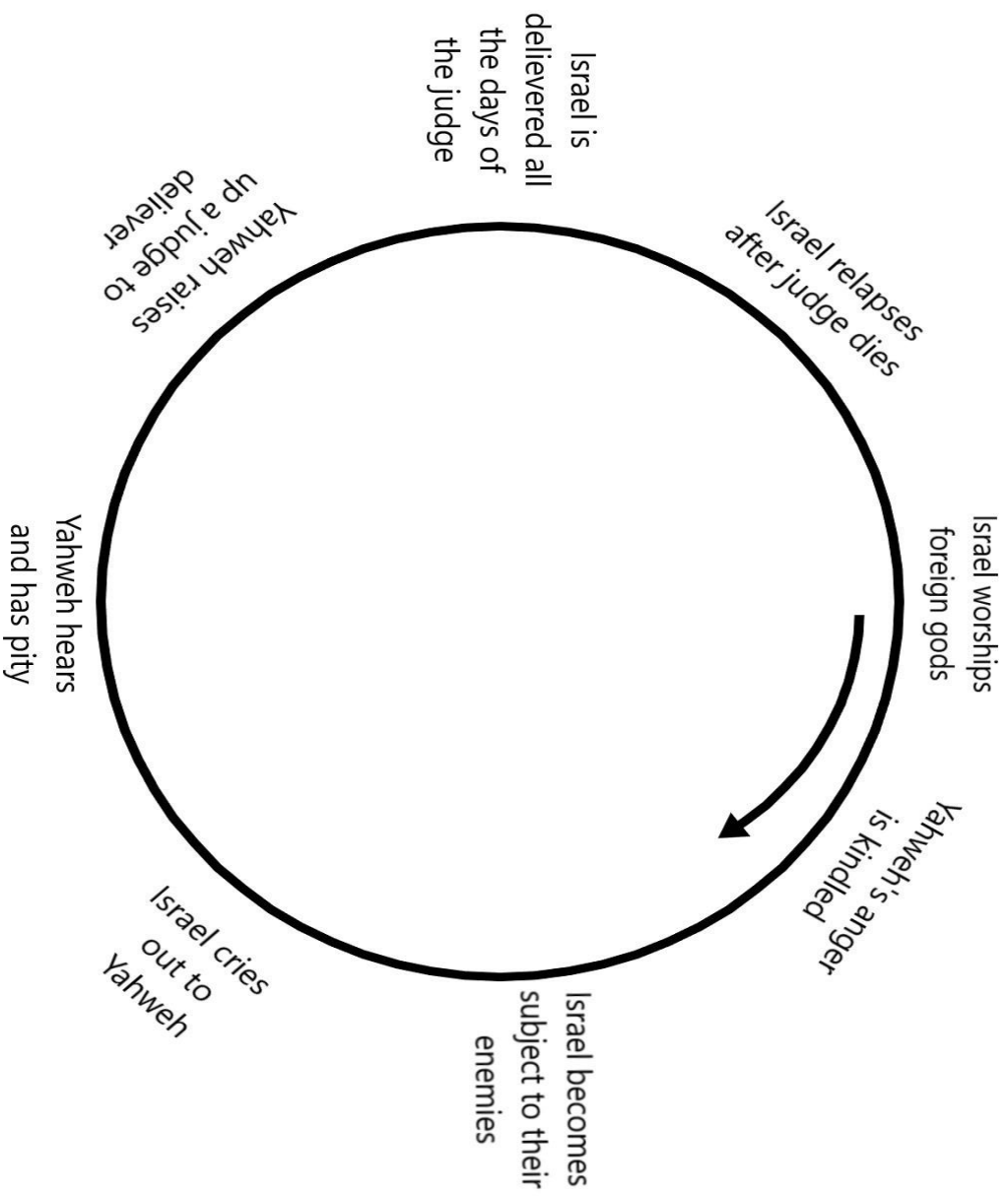
The character stories begin: Othniel and Ehud

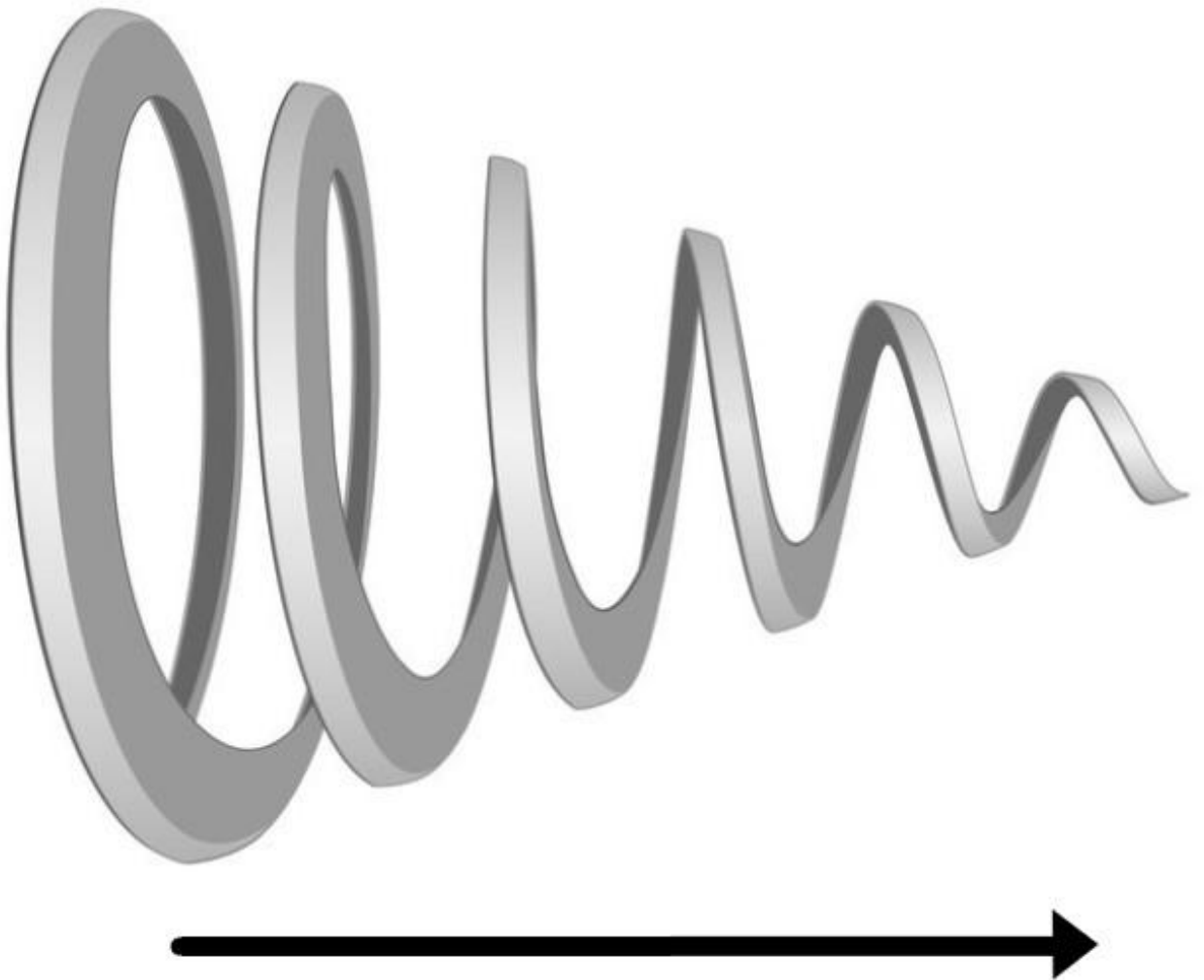
Read:

- Othniel's story 3:7-11
- Ehud's story 3:12-30

Think about:

- How does Othniel's story set up the downward spiral?
- How does brutality, treachery, and cunning play into the Ehud story?





Yahweh is king (1:1)

