

ROUTE 66: The Book of Judges

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Let's turn in our Bibles, this morning, to the Book of Judges... This is one of my FAVORITE BOOKS of the BIBLE! – It's ALSO one of the VERY FIRST Books of the BIBLE I TAUGHT when I was hired as an Assistant Pastor (many moons ago)...

Now, our OPENING CRAWL did a FAIRLY GOOD JOB of catching-us-up to WHERE WE ARE, in the overall narrative...

But it's BEEN... **FIVE** WEEKS since we have been **IN** this series, so... **INDULGE ME** for a moment as I RESET-THE-COMPASS for where we are...

The Lord has promised that through "Abraham's seed" **"all the families of the earth shall be blessed."** – We call this 'The Abrahamic Covenant,' and it is a PROMISE FIRST made back in Genesis Chapter 15...

This REALLY PROVIDES the SPINE of the Old Testament. – It is TRACING THE FULFILLMENT of this specific promise...

Now—in making this promise—God **TELLS** Abraham that his **"descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and... serve them, and... [be afflicted] for four hundred years."**

So, this happens in EGYPT... But AFTER that time, the Lord promises to BRING Abraham's descendants BACK to the land of HEBRON...

And – in fulfilling this promise – God raises-up Moses... and—in an event called 'The Exodus'—He uses him to bring the 'Children of Israel' (Abraham's descendants) all the way BACK through a LONG wilderness journey...

Where they receive the LAW, the SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM, the PRIESTHOOD, the PLANS for the TABERNACLE... But eventually—under the leadership of Moses' **successor** JOSHUA—they cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land...

Now, the books of JOSHUA **AND** JUDGES flow **NEATLY** together... And **BOTH** of them tell us that: **"Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known... the works of the LORD which He had done for Israel."**

But, Judges Chapter 1, Verse 1, **TELLS** us that this is: **"AFTER the death of Joshua..."** – In fact, Judges 2, Verse 8 (if you wanna look there)... says: **"Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died when he was one hundred and ten years old."**

Verse 10 says: **"When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did NOT know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel... [And] Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD..."**

In his GREAT book ‘Know Your Bible,’ Dr. Graham Scroggie writes: *“Judges is one of the saddest books in the Bible, telling, as it does, of repeated apostasy, chastisement, and mercy. Rebellion, retribution, repentance, and rest, are the dominating notes in this **minor music**. Joshua treats of the heavenly, but Judges of the earthly; the one is of the Spirit, and the other of the flesh. In one is a song of joy, and the other a sob of sorrow. In one is victory, and the other, defeat. In one is [the] progress [of the nation], and in the other, decline: in the one, faith, and... the other, unbelief: in the one [is] freedom, and in the other bondage. Judges teaches us—on the one hand—not to presume, but on the other hand, not to despair.”* – It’s a GREAT BOOK!

Now, Judges covers an IMPORTANT period in Israel’s history—but it’s a very **BLEAK** time... It covers the span from about 1380 BC (right after the death of Joshua)... to about 1050 BC, and the RISE of the **KINGS** (or, the MONARCHY)...

During THIS time, the Book of Judges REPEATS the refrain... **“there was no king in Israel”** in those days... – And, AS A RESULT, **“everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”** – If there was a **‘THEME VERSE’** to the Book of Judges, this would be it!

A lot of times, people will say: **“It seems like the world is getting worse!”** – And, I’m SURE—perhaps in an attempt to DISCOURAGE or DISTRACT, or DEPRESS us—Satan would LOVE for us to BELIEVE that VERY THING...

But scripture assures that: **“There is nothing new under the sun.”** – Prior to the flood, Genesis 6 says: **“every intent of the thoughts of [man’s] heart was ONLY EVIL continually.”** – And—as we READ through the Book of Judges—we are CONFRONTED by this very thing...

Who can forget passages like Jael pounding Sisera’s head to the ground with a tent peg? – Or the un-named Levite CHOPPING-UP THE BODY OF A CONCUBINE... and mailing her TWELVE BODY parts to the Twelve Tribes of Israel?!

I mean, that’s a passage you don’t read in daily devotions!

The Book of Judges is BRUTAL, WICKED, PERVERTED, IMMORAL, DEGRADED, and CORRUPT period of history! – And yet – in SOME ways – that’s part of the “WONDER” of it... And, somebody might say, *“Kevin, what do you mean?”*

It’s like when a JEWELER is showing off diamonds... The FIRST THING THEY’LL DO is lay-out a BLACK, VELVET CLOTH... This provides the BACK-GROUND upon which the DIAMONDS can SHINE EVEN BRIGHTER!

The Book of Judges is a LOT LIKE THAT... The Book of Judges is the **BLACK BACKGROUND** that shows-off the **RADIANCE** of God’s work...

That’s part of what makes the Book of Ruth so AMAZING! – The Book of Ruth happens during the PERIOD of the JUDGES... And so, there is this BEAUTIFUL STORY of GOD’S REDEMPTION that SHINES upon the BLEAK BACKGROUND of this period...

DURING this time, the Lord will RAISE-UP for Israel **TEMPORARY LEADERS**, known as the ‘JUDGES’... The word LITERALLY means “Champions,” or “Saviors.” – And, THERE’S NO QUESTION... There are MEN and WOMEN who do AMAZING THINGS...

- **SAMSON**, beating back 1,000 PHILISTINES with the Jawbone of a Donkey...
- **GIDEON**... Chasing down 135 THOUSAND MIDIANITES with an army of THREE HUNDRED... That’s odds of FIVE HUNDRED to ONE!
- Left-handed **EHUD**, plunging a dagger so DEEP into Eglon’s belly that it STICKS...
- **SHAMGAR**... killing 600 PEOPLE at one time with a FARMING TOOL....

SEVERAL OF THESE ‘JUDGES’ are mentioned – BY NAME – in Hebrews 11, the “Hall of Faith.” – In the crescendo of that passage, the writer says: **“What more shall I say? The time would fail me to tell of GIDEON... and BARAK... and SAMSON... and JEPHTHAH...”**

These are all JUDGES!—“HEROES” of our FAITH... Men and women who have gone on before us, whose lives should **RISE OFF THE PAGES OF SCRIPTURE** to remind us that a life of faith and power and supernatural enabling CAN BE LIVED in the midst of DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES...

Now... It isn’t that the JUDGES were PERFECT... Right? – Many of them are FLAWED, and WEAK, with FAILURES... But, that’s PART of what makes them REAL... and RELATABLE.

One author writes: *“Humankind’s need of a DIVINE DELIVERER is emphasized in the Book of Judges.”*

We did a series through this book a few years ago... called **“The World’s First Super-heroes.”**

But, these people aren’t **MADE OF METAL**... they can’t **SHOOT LASERS** out of their eyes... Or **LEAP TALL BUILDINGS** with a single bound... The phrase **“the LORD was WITH the judge”** should STAND-OFF the page to us...

The Bible TALKS about people doing HEROIC THINGS...

- 2nd Samuel 23 mentions Benaiah... One of the Mighty Men of David... VERSE 20 says: **“Benaiah... [did] many deeds. He... killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also [went] down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day.”**
- DAVID HIMSELF HEROICLY TAKING ON the GOLIATH – almost TWELVE FEET TALL – and defeating him with a SLING and some STONES...
- 1st Chronicles mentions the: **“Gadites [who] joined David... men of valor, men trained for battle... whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as gazelles on the mountains.”**
- The same Chapter mentions 50 THOUSAND men of Zebulun: **“expert in war with ALL WEAPONS... Stout-hearted men who could KEEP RANKS.”**
- 1st Chronicles 20 mentions Sibbechai, Elhanan, Jonathan, **ALL** who killed giants...
- PSALM 18:29... One of my FAVORITE VERSES in the Bible says... **“By You I can run against a troop... BY MY GOD... I can leap over a wall!”** – I love that!

The Bible TALKS about HEROES! – But, it ISN'T that the PEOPLE in this book are super-heroes... They serve a **SUPER** GOD, who **ENABLES** THEM to do **SUPER**-NATURAL THINGS...

These following deeds are CLEARLY attributed to the Spirit of the Lord in the Book of Judges:

- **“The spirit of the Lord came upon”** Othniel—in Judges 3:10—and enables him to defeat the Mesopotamians...
- Judges 6:34 says the Spirit of the Lord **CLOTHED HIMSELF** with Gideon to defeat the Midianites...
- Judges 11:29 says the Spirit of the Lord equipped Jephthah to defeat the Ammonites...
- **“The Spirit of the LORD began to move”** in Samson in Chapter 13... and CAME UPON HIM MIGHTILY to... tear a LION APART... to KILL 30 men of Ashkelon, to BREAK HIS BONDS in Chapter 15...

In FACT, Judges is the FIRST BOOK of the BIBLE to SPECIFICALLY use the phrase **“the Spirit of the Lord”** ... That phrase appears SEVEN TIMES in this book...

Now... ALL of this **SHOULD** encourage us... Because 2nd Chronicles 16:9 says: **“The eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, TO SHOW HIMSELF STRONG on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”**

But **WE** are in a MUCH BETTER POSITION than ANY of these Old Testament heroes! – NONE of them HAD God's Spirit living **INSIDE** of them...

The Spirit come **UPON** them, yes... But—according to Ephesians 1:20—the same Spirit that **“worked in Christ when [God] raised Him from the dead”** is at work **IN** us... There is SO MUCH POWER available to the believer today...

In fact, Jesus promised that “greater works” than He had done WE “would do.” – How did Jesus DO the things he did? – It wasn't just “because He was Jesus.” – It was by the POWER of God's SPIRIT...

Now, we know WHAT **PERIOD** the Book of Judges covers... But we AREN'T sure who WROTE the book... The **TALMUD** says it was SAMUEL (which is GENERALLY ACCEPTED... we KNOW he was a WRITER, from 1st Samuel 10:25)...

And, the REPEATED PHRASE **“in THOSE DAYS there was no king in Israel”** certainly SUGGESTS that it was WRITTEN at a time when there **WAS** a king in Israel...

Also—in Chapter 1—there's a detail that **“the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day”** ... **THAT** would suggest it was written at a time **BEFORE** David CONQUERED that city (in 2nd Samuel Chapter 5)...

The **REPEATING PATTERN** to Judges is this... The people will SIN... God will RAISE UP an OPPRESSOR... The people CRY OUT FOR DELIVERANCE... God sends a CHAMPION

on their behalf... the people enjoy a period of PEACE... and then, the cycle starts ALL OVER AGAIN...

It's probably BEST ENCAPSULATED in a passage from Chapter 2... If you wanna look there with me... I'll read Verse SEVEN again, just to sort-off set-the-stage... It says:

“The people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua...” But—Verse 8 says— **“Joshua... died when he was one hundred and ten years old.”**

Verse 10 says: **“When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did NOT know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.”** – Verse 11 begins: **“Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD...”** – And, here's the DESCRIPTION...

“[They] served the Baals; and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them... they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger. They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.”

Verse 14 says: **“[So] the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. [And] He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed.”**

“Nevertheless,” VERSE 16 says: **“The LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them. Yet they would not listen to their judges... they played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them. They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do so.”**

VERSE 18: **“And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them. And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way.”**

G. Campbell Morgan said: *“This connection of sin, punishment, and deliverance really forms the keynote to the historical movement recorded in the whole of [this] Book.”*

And, what FOLLOWS is a series of SNAPHOTS—VIGNETTES—that detail the **INDIVIDUAL EXPLOITS** of these ‘JUDGES’ that God would raise-up...

They're often broken into MAJOR and MINOR JUDGES... The MAJOR JUDGES are: **Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson**... The MINOR JUDGES are: **Shamgar, Tola, Jair, Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon**... BibleHub writes:

“The thirteenth, Abimelech, is included in neither group, since his story is... a continuation of... Gideon's, and his career is... deplorable...”

And—TECHNICALLY—SAMUEL is considered the “last judge” of Israel, serving during the transition **into** the period of the KINGS...

In fact, the Judges are OFTEN broken into three TYPES... The **WARRIOR**-Judges (like Gideon and Samson)... the **PRIEST**-Judges (like Eli)... and the **PROPHET**-Judges (like Samuel)...

The STRUCTURE of the book is—ROUGHLY—THIS...

- **A PROLOGUE**—in Chapters 1—3, establishing “*the historical scene for the narrative*”
- **THE MAIN BODY**—in Chapters 3—16... Which “*illustrates the recurring pattern within Israel's history.*”
- And then, an **EPILOGUE** in Chapters 17—21...

The LAST FEW CHAPTERS are EPISODIC, and they are BRUTAL... Chapter 17 & 18 detail the ‘Danite Migration,’ which illustrates the **RELIGIOUS CORRUPTION** of this period...

Chapters 19 through 21... This is the passage where the CONCUBINE gets CHOPPED INTO PIECES... And it **LEADS** TO the War Against Benjamin... which illustrates the **POLITICAL CORRUPTION** of this time...

One author writes: “*The purpose of these stories is to illustrate the consequences of Israel's apostasy and anarchy*” during this time...

The Book **CONCLUDES WITH** that statement: “**there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**” That's exactly how the book FEELS when you read it...

Now... HOW EXACTLY did this happen? – How did ISRAEL END-UP in this REPEATING, CYCLICAL PATTERN?

There's something REALLY IMPORTANT in understanding the BACK-STORY of the Book of Judges... And this was something that the Lord had told Israel TIME and TIME again...

ALL THE WAY BACK in Exodus Chapter 23, God said: “**Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared... My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off...**”

He TOLD them: “**You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their sacred**

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pillars... I will send My fear before you, I will cause confusion among... the people to whom you come, and will make all your enemies turn their backs to you... I will send hornets before you, which shall drive [them] out... I will not drive them out... in one year... [But] Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and... inherit the land.” – So, God PROMISES to “drive out” the inhabitants of the Promised land once He brings them in...

Now... INTERESTINGLY... In Numbers Chapter 33... God tells the people: “When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan... then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places; you shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land and dwell in it, [Because] I have given you the land to possess...”

And, the LANGUAGE OF THIS PROMISE flip-flops MULTIPLE TIMES before we come to the Book of Judges... Sometimes it says God’s GONNA DRIVE OUT the inhabitants of the land... Other times, it says THEY were to DRIVE OUT the inhabitants of the land...

So, which was it? – Was it GOD? – or THEM??? – YES!!!

This is a good SNAPSHOT of how things work in OUR lives... Philippians 2:12 tells us to “**WORK OUT [our] own salvation with fear and trembling...**” – WHY? – “**BECAUSE God is WORKING IN YOU both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**”

We are to WORK OUT our salvation – to LIVE IT OUT, PRACTICALLY, DAILY a LIFE OF OBEDIENCE – specifically **BECAUSE** we are CONFIDENT that God is working IN us...

But, there was ALWAYS this CAVEAT... God says—in Numbers 33:55—“**If you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land... [then] those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides... They shall harass you in the land where you dwell.**”

In FACT, God says: “**It shall be that I will do to you as I thought to do to them.**” – Okay, with **ALL** that in mind... Now look at Judges Chapter 1... Starting in verse 27... It says:

- “Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages; [because] the Canaanites were determined to dwell in that land.
- VERSE 28 says: “It came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites under tribute, but did not completely drive them out.”
- VERSE 29 says: “Ephraim [did not] drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer...”
- VERSE 30: “Nor did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron or the inhabitants of Nahalol; so the Canaanites dwelt among them, and were put under tribute.”
- VERSE 31: “Nor did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Acco or the inhabitants of Sidon, or of Ahlab, Achzib, Helbah, Aphik, or Rehob...”
- VERSE 33: “Nor did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh or the inhabitants of Beth Anath...”

The list just goes ON and ON... But I think you get the point: The people **DID NOT DO** what God **TOLD THEM TO DO**... INSTEAD of DRIVING OUT THEIR ENEMIES – They start to make TREATIES with them...

And, you know what??? – EXACTLY what God SAID would happen... happened... The people that they THOUGHT they could CONTROL... that THEY THOUGHT **THEY** would be in charge of EVENTUALLY **ROSE-UP** and put THEM under control... Why?

Because (Galatians 6:7)... **“God is not mocked; whatever a man sows, that [shall] he also reap.”**

So often, it is the THINGS in our lives... the BEHAVIORS, the HABITS, the TENDENCIES... the **SINS**... the things we think **WE** can control... We think: *“It’s not hurting anybody! – Nobody knows!”*

And—RATHER than doing what scripture says—and **“make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”** – That: **“if your... hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you...”** – **“If your... eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you...”**

We think, *“THAT extreme! – It CAN’T be THAT bad!”* – And rather than DEALING with sin... we try to **NEGOTIATE** it... We try to MAKE A TREATY with our flesh...

We try to figure out how **IT** can live in my body, while—at the same time—I’m a Christian... How can my SPIRIT AND FLESH be ROOM MATES? – How can I be a **CHRISTIAN** and ENJOY **SIN** at the same time?

How can my NEW NATURE and my OLD NATURE GET ALONG? – They CAN’T! Galatians 5 says: **“the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh... [they] are contrary to one another...”**

Paul says: **“I see... [a] law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my [body].”**

See, that’s the SAME MISTAKE the Children of Israel made: *“How can we DRIVE OUT the inhabitants of the land, **AND** let them STAY HERE and SERVE ME at the same time?”*

You CAN’T... And, EXACTLY what God said would happen HAPPENED...

If we read INTO Chapter 2... We read: **“the Angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: ‘I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you. And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this?’”**

“Therefore,” Verse 3, **“I... 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.’”** – And THIS is what KICKS-OFF the whole REPEATING CYCLE... of the Book of Judges...

Now, what’s SAD... is that—in REALITY—the people of this time **DID** have a king... See, God wanted His people to be a Theocracy: a people living under the **DIRECT INFLUENCE** and **LEADERSHIP OF** God... They HAD a king...

They just had no **HUMAN** KING... Which is something they will cry-out for LATER... Which is something ELSE that gets them into problems... We see THAT in 1st Samuel...

My POINT is... the people during the period of the Judges are **STILL GOD’S PEOPLE**... They’re just **NOT LIVING UNDER GOD’S RULE**...

And, there is another verse... That’s tied **VERY CLOSELY** to this IDEA in the Book of Judges... It’s in 1st Samuel... (you don’t have to turn there)...

1st Samuel takes place right AROUND—or right AFTER—the PERIOD of the Judges... And 1st Samuel 3, Verse 1 says [**OF** this time]: **“The word of the LORD was RARE in those days... there was no widespread revelation.”**

There was no WIDESPREAD READING—or UNDERSTANDING—of GOD’S WORD during this time... And **THAT** is what led to this GENERAL MINDSET of people doing whatever they want...

And this SAME THING happens today... And, I’m not talking about LOST people...

There are MANY who CLAIM to be Christians... And yet, in terms of actually LIVING UNDER the **AUTHORITY** of God’s Word, or the LEADING of God’s Spirit... forget about it!

We live in a day-and-age of **RELATIVE MORALISM, SITUATIONAL ETHICS**... where, not only do people not KNOW... people do not CARE... to know the Word of God.

This is the day-and-age where the average church-goer can tell you all about the latest CHOSEN episode, but they CAN’T quote scripture...

They can tell you what the latest **WORSHIP HIT** is on ‘Christian radio,’ but they can’t tell you their favorite PSALM is from the INSPIRED, INERRANT Word of God...

The Word of the Lord is “rare” nowadays, in terms of people LIVING it, and TEACHING it...

Paul the Apostle Timothy that: **“The time will come”** – And I believe it HAS – **“when [people] will not ENDURE sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap-up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and [instead] be turned aside to fables.”**

You know what that is? – That is everyone doing what is RIGHT in their OWN EYES...
HEAPING UP for THEMSELVES TEACHERS who will TELL THEM what they want to hear

But when we LIVE THAT WAY... then what happened in the Book of Judges is EXACTLY what will happen to us.

It's an interesting **COMPARISON STUDY** to take the Book of Judges, and view it through the LENS of Romans Chapter 1... And hold it up alongside Paul's description of a society that SYSTEMATICALLY REMOVES THE AUTHORITY OF GOD from its thinking...

He says: **"because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened... and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man... Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator... For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful... And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things..."**

The list just goes on and on... What's the SOLUTION? – What's the 'ANTIDOTE' for this? – I believe it's the SAME THING we see in the Book of Judges...

The Spirit of God wants to come UPON people, and EMPOWER people, and RAISE PEOPLE UP, and USE people to DO HIS WORK in seeing OTHER PEOPLE LIBERATED... and SET-FREE!

We don't actually **SEE** this in the Book of the Judges, but—when we come to 1st Samuel—God will RAISE-UP **ONE MAN** to completely CHANGE THE DIRECTION of the entire nation... the LAST JUDGE, SAMUEL...

But—before we get there—we're going to look at the Book of Ruth NEXT week... It's a BEAUTIFUL STORY... it takes place DURING the PERIOD of the Judges...

I KNOW that I said that I was originally going to include it, this morning... But then, I thought, *"Hey, next week is Mother's Day! What a PERFECT TIME to look at the Book of Ruth!"*

So, there you have the Book of Judges... **LOTS OF LESSONS**... But read ahead into the Book of Ruth... and then, join us NEXT SUNDAY... as ROUTE 66 continues...