

# Judges Series

## Lesson #12

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**Spiraling Out of Control**  
**Judges 2:6ff; Joshua 24**



# JUDGES

**Moral Relativism  
Destroys a Nation**

**2021 Series**

# Outline of “Judges” (Chieftains, Tribal Rulers, Leaders)

**1:1–3:6**

## **Introduction**

How Israel went from  
spiritual victory  
to being worse than  
the Canaanites.

**Incomplete  
obedience**

**Compromise**

**Failure**

**Cycles of discipline**

**3:7–16:31**

## **Paganization of the Leadership**

**Othniel (the best)**

**Ehud**

**Shamgar**

**Deborah**

**Gideon**

**Tola, Jair**

**Jephthah**

**Ibzan, Elon, Abdon**

**Samson**

**(the worst)**

**17:1–21:25**

## **Paganization of the Priests**

**Chap. 17–18**

**and the  
People**

**Chap. 19–21**

**Josh. 24:14, “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!**

**Josh. 24:15, “And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”**

**Josh. 24:28, “So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance.”**

**Note, verse 28 is similar to**

**Judges 2:6, “And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land.”**

**Rom. 1:1, “Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God.” Cf., Gal. 1:10**

**δοῦλος (*doulos*), slave;**

**δοῦλος, η, ον (s. next entry; Soph. et al.; PGiss 3, 5 ὅ̅ πάντα δοῦλα; Ps. 118:91; Wsd 15:7; Philo; Jos., Ant. 16, 156; Ar. [Milne, 76, 49]; SibOr 3, 567)**

**pert. to being under someone’s total control, slavish, servile,**

**① male slave as an entity in a socioeconomic context, slave**

**② one who is solely committed to another, slave, subject**

**Rom. 6:5, “For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,**

**Rom. 6:6, “because we know this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be nullified/abolished, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.**

**Rom. 6:7, “For he who has died has been freed from sin.”**

**Rom. 6:12, “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.**

**Rom. 6:13, “And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.**

**Rom. 6:14, “For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”**

**sin reign = sin having dominion = slave of sin**

**παρίστημι (*paristēmi*),  
place, put at the disposal  
of, present**



**Rom. 6:15, “What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!**

**Rom. 6:16. “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”**

**Rom. 6:17, “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.”**

**παρίσθημι (*paristēmi*),  
place, put at the disposal  
of, present**

**Rom. 6:18, “And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”**

**Rom. 6:19, “I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.”**

**παρίστημι (*paristēmi*),  
place, put at the disposal  
of, present**

**Josh. 24:28, “So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance.**

**Josh. 24:29, “Now it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being one hundred and ten years old.”**

**Judges 2:8, “Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died when he was one hundred and ten years old.”**

**Josh. 24:30, “And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Serah, which is in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.”**

**Judg. 2:9, “And they buried him in the territory of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.”**

**Judges 2:10, “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.”**

**Judges 2:10, “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.”**

**Jer. 10:25, “Pour out Your fury on the Gentiles, who do not know You, and on the families who do not call on Your name; For they have eaten up Jacob, devoured him and consumed him, and made his dwelling place desolate.”**

**Judges 2:10, “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.”**

**Jer. 4:22, “For My people are foolish, They have not known Me. They are silly children, And they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, But to do good they have no knowledge.”**

**Judg. 2:11, “Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals,”**

**רָעָה *rā‘āh* bad, evil, usually followed by the worship of idols. Evil begins by abandoning God and turning to alternatives, which are always one of Satan’s snares.**



**Judg. 2:11, “Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals,”**

**They did not know ... they did evil ... they enslaved themselves to the *Ba'als*.**

**Judg. 2:12, “and they forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the LORD to anger.**

**Judg. 2:13, “So they abandoned the LORD and served [enslaved themselves] Baal and the Ashtaroth.”**

עבד *avad* qal  
wawConsec 3 masc  
plur  
to work, serve, the work  
of a slave

עזב-1 *azav-1*  
qal  
infinitiveConst  
to forsake,  
leave,  
abandon

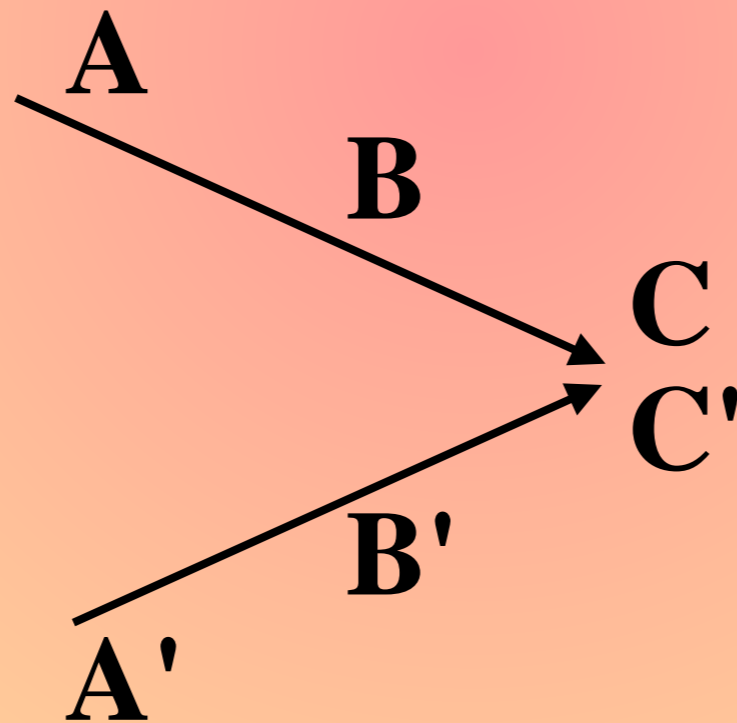
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**Judg. 2:13, “So they forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtaroth.”**

**They did not know ... they did evil ... they served the *Ba'als* ... they abandoned ... they enslaved themselves.**

# *Chiasmus* or Chiasm

A literary device that organizes a series of events in such a way that the second half of the series is a mirror reflection of the first half. The purpose is to emphasize the center events, much as a frame highlights and emphasizes its picture.



**A They served the Baals, 11b**

**B They abandoned *Yhwh*, 12a**

**C They pursued other gods, 12b**

**C' They worshipped them, 12c**

**B' They abandoned *Yhwh*, 13a**

**A' They served the *Baals* and the *Astartes*, 13b**

## **Why Did They Get Into Idolatry?**

- 1. Pagan religions had no prohibitions.**

**The Law said You shall not commit adultery, no bestiality, no fornication, no homosexuality, no lewdness, no child sacrifice. No prohibitions. Each of these were at the very center of Canaanite worship.**

## **Why Did They Get Into Idolatry?**

- 2. The Canaanite religions were centered around prosperity now. In the family, having children, in the fields having abundant crops, and in the flocks and herds. The Canaanite gods were all about prosperity and wealth.**

**Judg. 2:3, “Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they will become as thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you.’ ”**

**מוֹקֵשׁ *moqesh* comm  
masc sing abs  
snare, a trap**



**Canaanite Syrian Philistine Moab Babylon Egypt**

**Ba'al**

**Hadad**

**Dagon\***

**Chemosh**

**Ashteroth**

**Anat**

**Ishtar**

**Isis**

**Judges 2:14, “And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel. So 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.”**