

# Lesson 14: Judges for Hard Times



**Main Point:** God uses men and women to lead and inspire his people.

**Key Verses:** Judges 2:16-18

16 Then the LORD raised up **judges**, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. 17 Yet they would not **listen** to their judges but prostituted themselves to other **gods** and **worshipped** them. Unlike their ancestors, they quickly **turned** from following the way of their ancestors, the way of **obedience** to the LORD's **commands**. 18 Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and **saved** them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD **relented** because of their groaning under those who **oppressed** and afflicted them.

## Background:

1. God delivered his people from **slavery** in Egypt.
2. God gave his people **instructions** for life.
3. **Joshua** led the Israelites into the Promised Land.
4. Israel did **evil** in God's sight by worshipping **Baal**.

*Exodus 20:3*  
*"You shall have no other gods before Me."*

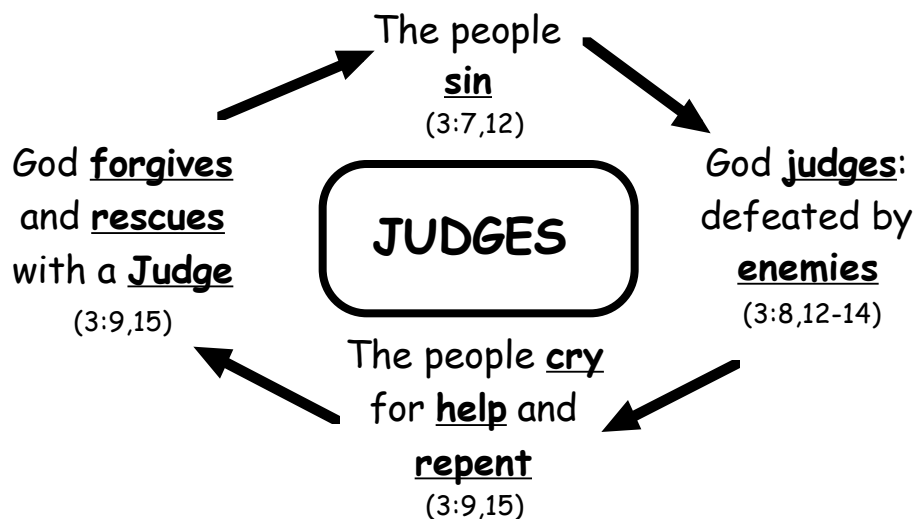
**Read: Judges 2:6-18**

Why didn't the next generation not know God? The generation that knew the Lord and what he had done for them all died without teaching the next generation about the Lord.

Who did they follow instead? They served the Baals and various gods of the people around.

Who do people follow today? They follow many other gods: money, status, popularity, material things, sports, drugs/alcohol, relationships.

**Read Judges 3:7-9; 3:12-15**



## JUDGES

- Othniel
- Ehud
- Shamgar
- Deborah
- Gideon
- Tola
- Jair
- Jephtha
- Ibzan
- Elon
- Abdon
- Samson