



**Let's Keep Things Simple**  
**Sunday, September 15, 2024**  
**David Hinkle**  
**Judges 2:6-3:11**

**Passage Outline**

**The Past Setting - Judges 2:6-10**

**The Spiral Cycle - Judges 2:11-23**

**The Present Setting - Judges 3:1-6**

**The Simple Judge - Judges 3:7-11**

6 When Joshua dismissed the people, the people of Israel went each to his inheritance to take possession of the land. 7 And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the Lord had done for Israel. 8 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of 110 years.

Judges 2:6-8 ESV

9 And they buried him within the boundaries of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash. 10 And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.

Judges 2:9-10 ESV

11 And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. 12 And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the Lord to anger. 13 They abandoned the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth.

Judges 2:11-13 ESV

14 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. 15 Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them for harm, as the Lord had warned, and as the Lord had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress. Judges 2:14-15 ESV

16 Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. 17 Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the Lord, and they did not do so. Judges 2:16-17 ESV

18 Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he saved them from 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 afflicted and oppressed them. 19 But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways. Judges 2:18-19 ESV

20 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he said, "Because this people has transgressed my covenant that I commanded their fathers and have not obeyed my voice, 21 I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died, 22 in order to test Israel by them, whether they will take care to walk in the way of the Lord as their fathers did, or not." 23 So the Lord left those nations, not driving them out quickly, and he did not give them into the hand of Joshua. Judges 2:20-23 ESV

1 Now these are the nations that the Lord left, to test Israel by them, that is, all in Israel who had not experienced all the wars in Canaan. 2 It was only in order that the generations of the people of Israel might know war, to teach war to those who had not known it before. 3 These are the nations: the five lords of the Philistines and all the Canaanites and the Sidonians and the Hivites who lived on Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal-hermon as far as Lebo-hamath. Judges 3:1-3 ESV

4 They were for the testing of Israel, to know whether Israel would obey the commandments of the Lord, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses. 5 So the people of Israel lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 6 And their daughters they took to themselves for wives, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and they served their gods. Judges 3:4-6 ESV

7 And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. They forgot the Lord their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth. 8 Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia. And the people of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim eight years.

Judges 3:7-8 ESV

9 But when the people of Israel cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. 10 The Spirit of the Lord was upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the Lord gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand. And his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim. 11 So the land had rest forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

Judges 3:9-11 ESV

**The Problem:**  
**We forget God and walk in stubborn ways.**



1 Ah, stubborn children, declares the Lord,  
who carry out a plan, but not mine,  
and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit,  
that they may add sin to sin;

Isaiah 30:1 ESV

“Sin is not simply an action you do or fail to do, that you can choose to do or not to do. Sin is a power that holds you in its grip.”

Davis, D. R. (2000). Judges: Such a Great Salvation (p. 42). Christian Focus Publications.

### **The Solution:**

**God’s Spirit enables simple faith and fear of God.**

19 And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, 20 that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

Ezekiel 11:19-20 ESV

10 The Spirit of the Lord was upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the Lord gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand. And his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim.

11 So the land had rest forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

Judges 3:10-11 ESV

### **The Application:**

**Simply take God at His Word.**

## **SUMMARY**

Have you ever made a situation more complicated than it needed to be? The answer is yes. We have all done this. We get in our own way through thoughtless words and forgetful deeds. This disrupts our relationships and can even hinder our fellowship with God. Judges 2:6-3:6 provides the framework for the spiraling cycle of God’s judgment and deliverance throughout the book. The cycle starts (3:7-11) with Othniel who sets the standard of simple faith and fear whom God used to deliver His people.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. The beginning of this passage describes Joshua’s death, along with those of his generation. The next generation, however, is described as not knowing the Lord, or what He had done. How are you investing in the next generation in your family and community? What are some immediate steps you can take to point others to Christ?
2. The people are described as abandoning the Lord, who had brought them out of Egypt. (Jud 2:11) Scripture shows us many examples of “faith forgetfulness”. (Ex. 17:7, Isa 51:13, Jer 18:15) How can you reinforce and remind yourself of God’s faithfulness? (Deut 4:9) What is the danger in neglecting this?
3. Review the cycle outlined in 2:11-19. What attributes of God are demonstrated?
4. Why does God raise up judges to lead the people? (Jud 2:18b, 3:9) What do you learn about God’s character?
5. What happens when the judge dies? (Jud 2:19) Why are people quick to return to sin? (Rom 7:14-25) What are practical steps you can take to keep yourself moving away from sin instead of being drawn backwards? (Heb 12:1)

6. They lived among the nations, married, and served their gods - inviting the local culture to permeate their homes. What culturally acceptable compromises have you invited into your home?
7. Compare the account of Othniel (Jud 3:7-11) to the cycle outlined in Chapter 2 (see question 4). What is the key to the success and peace of his judgeship? (3:10) How is this also true for believers today? (Rom 15:13, Gal 5:22-23)
8. How does the cycle outlined this week point you to hope in Christ, our deliverer?