

# Week 17: The Judges — When Every Man Did What Was Right in His Own Eyes

*A Sabbath Family Bible Study*

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## Scripture Reading: Judges 2:11–23; Judges 17:5–6; Judges 21:25 (KJV)

*With Commentary Throughout*

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### **Judges 2:11–13**

*“And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim: and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers... and followed other gods...”*

#### **Commentary:**

After the death of Joshua and his generation, Israel fell into spiritual compromise. They forsook the covenant, abandoned God’s law, and adopted the gods of the surrounding nations. This is the recurring theme of Judges: a people who reject God’s authority and imitate the world.

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### **Judges 2:16–17**

*“Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them... yet they would not hearken...”*

#### **Commentary:**

God, in His mercy, raised up deliverers to rescue Israel from oppression. These judges were not always moral giants, but God used them to call the nation to repentance. Still, the people repeatedly fell back into sin—showing that **outward deliverance means nothing without inward transformation**.

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### **Judges 17:6 & 21:25**

*“In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”*

**Commentary:**

This is the tragic summary of the entire book. Without righteous leadership, **moral relativism reigned**. Everyone followed their own desires, leading to idolatry, injustice, and chaos. The lesson is clear: **God's people need order, law, and godly headship**—not personal opinion.

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**Judges 10:10–14 (optional reading)**

*“And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, saying, We have sinned against thee... And the LORD said... Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen...”*

**Commentary:**

God's patience is not infinite. When repentance is false and cyclical, He may withhold deliverance. This passage shows that **repentance must be sincere, not manipulative**. God cannot be mocked—He desires brokenness, not bargaining.

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## Discussion Questions for All Ages

**Young Children:**

- Who were the judges in the Bible?
- Why did the people get into trouble so often?
- What happens when people don't follow God's rules?

**Older Children & Teens:**

- Why do you think everyone started doing what was right in their own eyes?
- Can you think of ways this happens today?
- How can we make sure we are following God's Word and not just our feelings?

**Adults:**

- How does this time in Israel's history mirror our current culture?
- What safeguards can your family build against moral compromise?

- How can men in the home act as righteous “judges” to lead and protect?
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## Psalm Reading

### Psalm 12:1–8 (KJV)

*1 Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.*

*4 Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?*

*8 The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted.*

#### Commentary:

Psalm 12 captures the spirit of Judges: a generation that rejects authority and does whatever it pleases. The righteous cry out for help, and God’s Word remains the only reliable guide in the midst of moral confusion.

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## Hymn: “Come, Thou Almighty King”

By Anonymous (c. 1757)

1.

Come, Thou Almighty King,  
Help us Thy name to sing,  
Help us to praise!  
Father all-glorious,  
O'er all victorious,  
Come and reign over us,  
Ancient of Days!

2.

Come, Thou Incarnate Word,  
Gird on Thy mighty sword,  
Our prayer attend!  
Come, and Thy people bless,  
And give Thy Word success,  
Spirit of holiness,  
On us descend.

3.

Come, Holy Comforter,  
Thy sacred witness bear  
In this glad hour!  
Thou who almighty art,  
Now rule in every heart,  
And ne'er from us depart,  
Spirit of pow'r.

4.

To Thee, great One in Three,  
Eternal praises be,  
Hence evermore!  
Thy sov'reign majesty  
May we in glory see,  
And to eternity  
Love and adore.



## Family Application Points

1. **Reinforce the Authority of God's Word:**

Just as Israel fell when they did what was right in their own eyes, so we must train our families to **measure everything by Scripture**. Create the habit of asking, "What does God's Word say?"

2. **Fathers Must Lead Righteously:**

In the absence of righteous leadership, disorder grows. Men must rise in the home as faithful shepherds—guiding, correcting, and protecting according to God's law.

3. **Beware of Cultural Creep:**

Discuss how the world promotes doing "what feels right." Teach your children to discern and resist cultural pressures that oppose God's standards.

4. **Cultivate Sincere Repentance:**

When discipline comes, lead your household in honest confession—not just regret. Teach that **repentance involves turning from sin and returning to God's commands**.

5. **Build a Household of Order and Honor:**

Set routines, standards, and expectations that reflect godly order. Let your home contrast the chaos of the world and mirror the kingdom of God.



## Closing Prayer

*O Righteous Judge of all the earth, we confess that without Your rule, our hearts go astray. Just as Israel faltered when they abandoned Your law, we too are prone to wander. Teach us to honor Your Word, to love Your authority, and to obey Your commands. Let our home not be like the time of the Judges, when everyone did what was right in their own eyes. Instead, make us a family ruled by truth, led by righteousness, and protected by Your mercy. We pray in the name of our eternal Deliverer and King, Jesus Christ. Amen.*