

“A Few Good Men and Women”
The Story — Part 8
The Promised Land—The Book of Judges

1. The encouragement of Moses.

“Oh Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may go well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.” Deuteronomy 6:3

2. The command of Moses.

“Hear, O Israel! The Lord your God is one! And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”
Deuteronomy 6:4-9

3. The choice of Joshua.

“...as for me and my house I will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:14-18

4. The rebellion of Israel.

“Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals, ...”
Judges 2:11

[Also in Judges 3:7, 12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1]

“...played harlot...” Judges 8:33
“...every man did what was right in his own eyes.”
Judges 17:6
“...everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”
Judges 21:25

5. The YoYo effect.

With God

Without God

Up Down

Up Down

Up Down

6. A few good men and women.

“An what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.”

Judges Chart

<u>Oppressor</u>	<u>How Long</u>	<u>Judge</u>	<u>How Long</u>
Mesopotamians	8 years	Othniel	40 years
Moabites	18 years	Ehud	80 years
Canaanites	20 years	Shamgar	No time
		Deborah	40 years
Midianites	7 years	Barak	
		Gideon	40 years
		Tola	23 years
Ammonites	18 years	Jair	22 years
		Jepthah	7 years
		Ibzan	6 years
		Elon	10 years
Philistines	40 years	Abdon	8 years
		Samson	20 years
		Eli (1 Sam. 4:18)	40 years
		Samuel (1 Sam. 7:15)	30 years

7. Two that are faithful.

Gideon (a coward) Not a role model, but God's choice.
Judges 6-8

Samson (all that) - Not a role model, but again God's choice. Judges 13-16

8. Take it point: Choose the Lord.

"...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:15

"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

- Plan ahead to be with God.
- Understand that you will always be tempted to choose to be with God.
- Understand your victory in Christ.

