

Hebrews
11:32-34 Part 2

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The Israelites are constantly breaking covenant with God, abandoning God, living in sin, and worshipping false gods.

Even the judges/deliverers that God uses to give Israel military victory are far from virtuous.

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Example #1:
Jephthah

Judges 10:6

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Deuteronomy 7:1-5

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Judges 7:9-11

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Judges 7:10-16

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Judges 11:1-6

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Judges 11:29

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Judges 11:30-33

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Example #1:
Samson

Numbers 6:1-8

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Judges 14:5-6

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Judges 14:19

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Judges 15:14-16

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Judges 15:28-30

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Though the book of Judges does contain some examples of faith, overall the book of Judges points to two major issues:

1. The book of Judges reveals Israel's need for a better deliverer.
2. The book of Judges reveals the Israel's need for a better heart.

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The better Deliverer is Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:20-21

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Sin is the ultimate problem of all mankind, and God has provided the only One who can deliver people from their sin.

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Luke 4:16-21

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Romans 1:16

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The better heart is given to us by
Jesus Christ.

Ezekiel 36:25-27

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The better promises that come with
the new heart and the new Deliverer.

Ephesians 1:11-14

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Through Jesus Christ the victory is certain.

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Example #2:
Gideon

Judges 6:28-32

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Judges 7:2-8, 19-23

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A person of true faith walks in obedience to God even though he or she cannot see the road ahead.

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One, we want to be like the Israelites of Joshua's day who were much more consistent in their faith.

Two, we want to do better than they did with teaching the next generation.

Three, like Barak and Gideon we should have faith in God, obey God, and trust Him for the outcome.

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1. The book of Judges can be a difficult book to read due to the glaring sins of some of those that were used to deliver Israel who often reflected the sinful state of the nation. What were some of the sins of these judges/deliverers?

A. Gideon Judges (8:22-35)

B. Abimelech (Judges 9:53-57)

C. Jephthah (Judges 11)

D. Samson (Judges 14-16)

2. The book of Judges covers nearly 500 years of the cycle of Israel's abandoning God>oppression by God>crying out to God>deliverance by God. The people continued to allow themselves to be influenced by the culture of the people that were around them. List 8 methods of influence from the world/culture around us that Christians should be aware of:

3. God had repeatedly rescued Israel many times. Does the book of Judges record that Israel finally learned their lesson? Read the last verse in the book of Judges to find out. The Israelites were acknowledging no ruler, including God Himself. Who had become the authority and arbiter of moral truth? _____ In what ways is this like our society today?

4. Read Deuteronomy 7:3-4. The Israelites, including their judges and kings broke God's command not to intermarry and were continually drawn away to worship other gods. Could 1 Corinthians 6:14-18 be saying the same thing for Christians? _____ What if a Christian is already married to a non-Christian. What should he or she do? Seek a divorce? Stay married? See 1 Cor. 7:12-15 for help.
