

The Cycle of Judges

1. Peace in the land
2. Israel does what is evil in the sight of the LORD
3. They chase after idols and join with other nations
4. God gives them into the hand of those nations
5. Israel repents
6. Israel cries out to God for help
7. God sends a deliverer
8. Repeat ad nauseum

Judges 6:11-13

¹¹ Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.” ¹³ And Gideon said to him, “Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

We allow our present
circumstances to affect our
image of God's faithfulness,
presence, and character

Gideon's Response

1. "...if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us?"
2. "And where are all of his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us?"
3. "But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian."

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We are prone to forgetting the truth that God does not change because of the circumstances we find ourselves in

Self-Reflection Questions

1. As you've endured this past year, ask yourself, has the faithfulness and presence of God been in question for you?
2. Which things in your life, if they were taken away from you, would shake the confidence you have in God's promises?

Our failure to see God correctly
and clearly in the middle of trials
and tribulations causes us to
engage in futile efforts to be our
own deliverer

We are in desperate need for
God's help because we are
completely and utterly unable to
help ourselves outside of the Lord

Judges 6:14-16

¹⁴ And the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” ¹⁵ And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.” ¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.”