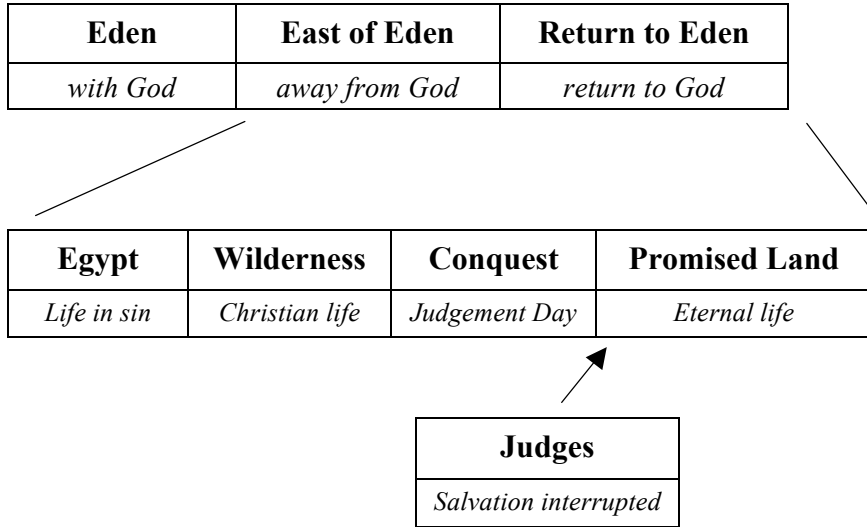


# THE BOOK OF JUDGES – THE BIG PICTURE”

## The basic storyline of the Bible:



## The story of Israel is our story

### 1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

### Exodus 19:5-6

<sup>5</sup> Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; <sup>6</sup> and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.

### Hebrews 11:8-10

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

## Egypt – life in sin

### Romans 6:17-18

<sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>18</sup> and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

### Exodus 6:6-7

<sup>6</sup> Say therefore to the people of Israel, “I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. <sup>7</sup> I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God.”

## Wilderness – the Christian life

### Hebrews 3:7-8, 12

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear his voice, <sup>8</sup> do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness.” ... <sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

## Promised Land – eternal life

### Deuteronomy 8:7-9

<sup>7</sup> For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, <sup>8</sup> a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup> a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper.

### Joel 2:3

The land is like the garden of Eden before them. (See also Ezekiel 36:35, Micah 7:14)

## Judges – the failure of God’s people to enter the Promised Land

### Hebrews 4:8-9

<sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. <sup>9</sup> So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

# Judges, “The Big Picture” | Notes

**The basic storyline of the Bible:**

<b>Eden</b>	<b>East of Eden</b>	<b>Return to Eden</b>
<i>with God</i>	<i>away from God</i>	<i>return to God</i>

<b>Egypt</b>	<b>Wilderness</b>	<b>Conquest</b>	<b>Promised Land</b>
<i>Life in sin</i>	<i>Christian life</i>	<i>Judgement Day</i>	<i>Eternal life</i>

<b>Judges</b>
<i>Salvation interrupted</i>

**The basic storyline of the Bible**

- Eden with God → cast out from Eden → reconciliation with God, in a new Eden

**The Old Testament is a dramatic retelling of this story**

- illustration: Cloud Atlas, six plots in six timelines, all repeating themselves
- illustration: The Sixth Sense, after end, see movie again in a new light

**From Egypt to Promised Land – allegory of salvation**

- but what do we do with the Book of Judges? (interruption/break in the story)
- Judges is about how Israel never came into the Promised Land
- everything that follows – Saul, David, Solomon, two kingdoms, exile – is about that

**The story of Israel is our story**

- there is a reading of OT that says Israel was a failed attempt and God started over with the church
- and so we distance ourselves from story of Israel, or see it only as moral examples | thus, irrelevant
- but we are Israel – proper way read story is to see ourselves in the story | it’s our story!

**1 Peter 2:9**

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

**Exodus 19:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; <sup>6</sup> and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.

**Peter is deliberately applying the language of Israel to the Gentile church**

- the church is the “new Israel” and Israel is the “church in the OT” | there is one people of God

## Hebrews 11:8-10

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.

<sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to **the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.**

### Remember the promise given to Abraham – “I will give you this land”

- but all along, Abraham understood it was more than the land | “a heavenly country”
- land was a picture of communion with God | he’s looking for the ‘New Jerusalem’
- in other words, Abraham’s story is not just nomad wandering around Canaan, but story of salvation

## Egypt – life in sin

### Romans 6:17-18

<sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>18</sup> and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

### Interesting the way Paul describes salvation as “freedom from slavery”

- we were “slaves” to sin | John 8:34 – “everyone who sins is a slave to sin”
- but Christ has set us free to worship him, to obey him
- is that just a metaphor? | just like with Cloud Atlas, two stories are echoing each other

### Exodus 6:6-7

<sup>6</sup> Say therefore to the people of Israel, “I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. <sup>7</sup> I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God.”

### Notice “redemption” and “deliverance from slavery” are the *same thing*

- Israel was not just physical captive, but spiritually enslaved in Egypt
- if read rest of Exodus 6, God wants his people to know him
- Moses doesn’t just say, “let my people go” but “let my people go that they may worship the LORD”

## Wilderness – the Christian life

### Hebrews 3:7-8, 12

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear his voice, <sup>8</sup> do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness.” ... <sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

### The writer of Hebrews is exhorting the church to not fall away

- continually goes back to example of Israel in the wilderness – “don’t be like Israel”
- meaning, Israel’s experience in the wilderness is a picture of the Christian life

Egypt (life in sin)	wilderness (Christian life)	Promised Land (heaven)
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## Conquest (Books of Joshua and Judges) – Judgment Day

**This by itself is a huge topic of discussion – next week**

**Before the New Creation dawns – God will purge the Earth of all evil**

- this is Judgment Day – when evil and injustice will be judged
- and the Earth will be made anew and good
- the bloody conquest of the Promised Land is a picture of that day

## Promised Land – eternal life

**Deuteronomy 8:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, <sup>8</sup> a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup> a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper.

**Canaan is described as a “garden-like” land, of overflowing abundance and beauty**

- “land flowing with milk and honey” | milk and honey were incredible luxuries, indicating great prosperity
- notice striking similarity to description of Eden in Genesis

**Genesis 2:8-12**

<sup>8</sup> And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

<sup>9</sup> And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>10</sup> A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.

<sup>11</sup> The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. <sup>12</sup> And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there.

**This connection is made explicit numerous times in OT prophets**

- Joel 2:3 – “The land is like the garden of Eden before them.”
- Ezekiel 36:35 – “garden of Eden” | Micah 7:14 – “garden land”

**Remember – what distinctive about Garden of Eden? | God was “with his people”**

- Temple in middle of the Promised Land, where God dwells with his people

## Judges – the failure of God’s people to enter the Promised Land

**Wait a minute, Israel did enter the land!**

- no, remember that the land had dual meaning | not just physical land, but symbolized communion with God

**Hebrews 4:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on.

<sup>9</sup> So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

## Hebrews 4 describes the Promised Land as a “Sabbath rest”

- Day of Rest is not just cessation of work, but “day of worship” | Sabbath is glimpse of heaven

## Writer of Hebrews says that Israel did not enter the “Day of Rest” because of disobedience

### Hebrews 4:6-11

<sup>6</sup> Those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, <sup>7</sup> again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward (Psalm 95), in the words already quoted, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” <sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. <sup>9</sup> So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, <sup>10</sup> for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. <sup>11</sup> Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

### In other words, the Book of Judges is all about the failure of Israel to truly enter the Promised Land

- in the story, they don’t fully conquer the land | but plagued by Canaanites who remain
- whole story is story of oppression and sorrow because of Canaanites (like Egypt!)
- reason why they didn’t fully conquer the land is because of sin and disobedience

### Each time, Israel cries out to God, and God sends a savior

- but each human-savior is inadequate and doesn’t ultimately rescue the people
- this happens again and again and again | it’s like Groundhog Day, but really depressing
- same story over and over – Israel oppressed, God sends human-savior, but only temporary relief, back to sin

### So what is the solution to the endless cycle?

### Matthew 2:13-15

<sup>13</sup> Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet (Hosea), “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

### Why did Jesus and his family go down to Egypt?

- was it just to flee King Herod? no
- Jesus is re-enacting the story of Exodus | is the true Son who comes out of Egypt
- and unlike Israel who failed to obey and come into Promised Land, Jesus succeeds
- Jesus goes into the wilderness to be tempted | he goes into the garden (Garden of Gethsamane)
- he meets the enemies of God on battlefield of the cross and decisively defeats them
- he enters the Promised Land through his Resurrection

### That’s the story of the Old Testament

- Moses fails, Joshua, Judges, David, Solomon – can’t bring people into the Promised Land | then, Exile
- pound into our hearts and minds the absolute failure of human effort and our need for a savior

Adam (Eden) -----fails----->	The Fall
Israel (Promised Land) -----fails----->	Exile
Christ (New Covenant) -----succeeds----->	New Creation