

THE CYCLE OF THE JUDGES

Introduction:

1. Proverbs 14:34; Romans 11:22
2. The nation of Israel during the time of the judges illustrates the principles of both these verses.
3. The cycle of the judges demonstrates what happens when a nation forgets and rebels against God.
4. It also reveals God's goodness toward those who repent and return to Him.

I. Riches (Joshua 21:43-45)

- A. God had fought and would fight for them (Joshua 23:1-5).
- B. God would continue to bless their faithfulness (Joshua 23:6-11).
- C. God had given them great riches (Joshua 24:13-18).

II. Rebellion (Judges 2:11-13)

- A. The Israelites forsook the Lord.
- B. The Israelites worshipped idols.
- C. The Israelites provoked God's anger (cf. Joshua 24:19-24).

III. Retribution (Judges 2:14-15)

- A. God allowed them to be spoiled.
- B. God allowed them to be defeated.
- C. God turned against them (Deuteronomy 4:25-28; Joshua 23:15-16).

IV. Repentance (Judges 2:18)

- A. God hears the groanings of His people.
- B. God will hear one who turns from sin back to Him (cf. Matthew 21:28-32; Luke 15:7, 10; 17:3-4; Acts 8:22).
- C. God will work to help and bless the penitent believer.

V. Rescue (Judges 2:16, 18)

- A. The Lord raised up judges.
- B. The judges brought deliverance.
- C. The deliverance brought prosperity.

VI. Return (Judges 2:17, 19)

- A. First, there was a return to prosperity and blessings.
- B. Sadly, this often led to a return to rebellion.
- C. Thus, the cycle of the judges continued...

Conclusion:

1. Man follows the same pattern today.
2. God remains true to His character – He will bless the faithful and penitent and He will punish the wicked and rebellious.
3. The choice is ours...