

**Pastor Allen Jackson**



Genesis — Exodus — Leviticus — Numbers — Deuteronomy

Joshua — Judges

## I. Joshua

Joshua 1:1-9 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

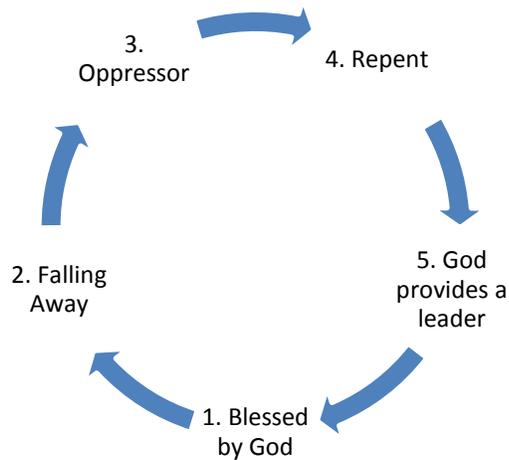
<sup>1</sup> After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: <sup>2</sup> "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them--to the Israelites. <sup>3</sup> I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. <sup>4</sup> Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates--all the Hittite country--to the Great Sea on the west. <sup>5</sup> No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. <sup>6</sup> **"Be strong and courageous,** because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. <sup>7</sup> **Be strong and very courageous.** Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. <sup>8</sup> Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. <sup>9</sup> **Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged,** for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

## II. Judges

Judges 2:8-17 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>8</sup> Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten <sup>10</sup> After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. <sup>11</sup> Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. <sup>12</sup> They forsook the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They provoked the Lord to anger <sup>13</sup> because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. <sup>14</sup> In his anger against Israel the Lord handed them over to raiders who plundered them. He sold them to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. <sup>15</sup> Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the Lord was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress. <sup>16</sup> Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. <sup>17</sup> Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. Unlike their fathers, they quickly turned from the way in which their fathers had walked, the way of obedience to the Lord's commands.

## A. Cycle of Retribution



## B. Gideon

Judges 6:1-2 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>1</sup> Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. <sup>2</sup> Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds.

Judges 6:11-16 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>11</sup> The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. <sup>12</sup> When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." <sup>13</sup> "But sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian." <sup>14</sup> The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" <sup>15</sup> "But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." <sup>16</sup> The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."

1. questions about circumstances
2. inadequate resources & experience

Judges 6:25-27 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>25</sup> That same night the Lord said to him, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one seven years old. Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. <sup>26</sup> Then build a proper kind of altar to the Lord your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering." <sup>27</sup> So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord told him. **But because he was afraid of his family and the men of the town, he did it at night rather than in the daytime.**

3. addressed personal challenges
4. followed God while afraid

Judges 7:2-3 (NIV®)

<sup>2</sup>The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her, <sup>3</sup>announce now to the people, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

- 5. too many resources
- 6. pride & self-sufficiency

Proverbs 16:18 (NIV®)

<sup>18</sup>Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Judges 7:7-8 (NIV®)

<sup>7</sup>The Lord said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go, each to his own place." <sup>8</sup>So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites to their tents but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others. Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley.

Judges 7:9-15 (NIV®)

<sup>9</sup>During that night the Lord said to Gideon, "Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands. <sup>10</sup>If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah <sup>11</sup>and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp." So he and Purah his servant went down to the outposts of the camp. <sup>12</sup>The Midianites, the Amalekites and all the other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore. <sup>13</sup>Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. "I had a dream," he was saying. "A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed." <sup>14</sup>His friend responded, "This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands." <sup>15</sup>When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands."