

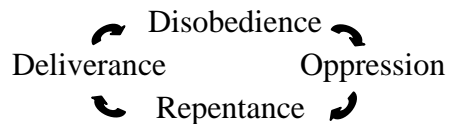
# HEROES: THE TRUE JUDGE AND DELIVERER

## SERMON OUTLINE

**Introduction** - *What do you think of when you hear the word "judge"?*

### 1. Israel: A People with a Problem

Judges 2:11 *Then the Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and worshiped the Baals; <sup>12</sup>and they abandoned the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; they followed other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were all around them, and bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger. <sup>13</sup>They abandoned the Lord, and worshiped Baal and the Astartes. <sup>14</sup>So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers who plundered them, and he sold them into the power of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. <sup>15</sup>Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them to bring misfortune, as the Lord had warned them and sworn to them; and they were in great distress. <sup>16</sup>Then the Lord raised up judges, who delivered them out of the power of those who plundered them. <sup>17</sup>Yet they did not listen even to their judges; for they lusted after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their ancestors had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the Lord; they did not follow their example. <sup>18</sup>Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the Lord would be moved to pity by their groaning because of those who persecuted and oppressed them. <sup>19</sup>But whenever the judge died, they would relapse and behave worse than their ancestors, following other gods, worshiping them and bowing down to them. They would not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.*



- ☹ **God's people persistently choose the path of sin and their own destruction.**
- ☺ **God persistently chooses the path of love and his people's deliverance.**

### 2. Deborah: A Temporary Solution

- Deborah is a prophetess. (Judges 4:6-7)
- Deborah is a symbol of God's presence. (Judges 4:8-9)
- Deborah is a mother in Israel. (Judges 5:7)
- Deborah is a sign of the true judge and deliverer.

### 3. Jesus: The Final Solution

*Isaiah 33:22 – For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our ruler, the LORD is our king, he will save us.*

*Psalm 96:13 - ...for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.*

*Acts 10:42-43 - (Jesus) commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*

*2 Timothy 4:8 – From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*

#### Purposeful reflecting...

- Pray for help to know Jesus better as you reflect on his character.
- What struck you about the pattern of disobedience that is evident throughout the history of Israel? How might you see this kind of pattern in your own life?
- Speak to the Lord honestly and specifically about the sin from which you need to be forgiven and delivered.
- How do you feel when you say, "He will come again to judge the living and the dead"?
- If you have put your full trust in Jesus, what does Scripture promise you about the coming of your Judge and Deliverer? Write out these promises to remind yourself of God's final answer.
- Worship the Lord Jesus, through the words of this hymn by William Perkins.

*Judge me, God of my salvation,  
Plead my cause, for Thee I trust;  
Hear my earnest supplication,  
Save me from my foes unjust;*

*O my soul, why art thou grieving?  
What disquiets and dismays?  
Hope in God; His help receiving,  
I shall yet my Savior praise.*

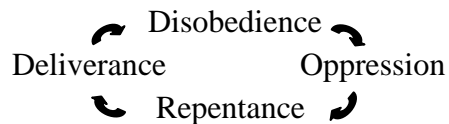
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