
A collection of historical artifacts is arranged on a light-colored surface. On the left, a portion of a chessboard with a checkered pattern and several chess pieces is visible. Below the chessboard, there are two medals: one with a red ribbon and a white star, and another with a blue ribbon and a white star. A pair of round-rimmed glasses with thin metal frames lies in the center. In the bottom left corner, a circular compass with a white face and black markings is partially visible.

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

2nd Book of the Former
Prophets



Book of Nevi'im {book of prophets}

- ◆ Former Prophets

 - Book of Joshua


 - Book of Judges

 - Book of Samuel

 - Book of Kings

- ◆ Later Prophets

 - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Ezekiel, etc



Who among the Filipino
Leaders do you like most?
Or any leader from other countries?

For you, who is
the true leader?









Leadership is a gift and a task

The LEADER does not only develop the qualities to think, speak, organize but also learn ways of being faithful follower to God and has the heart for the service of others.



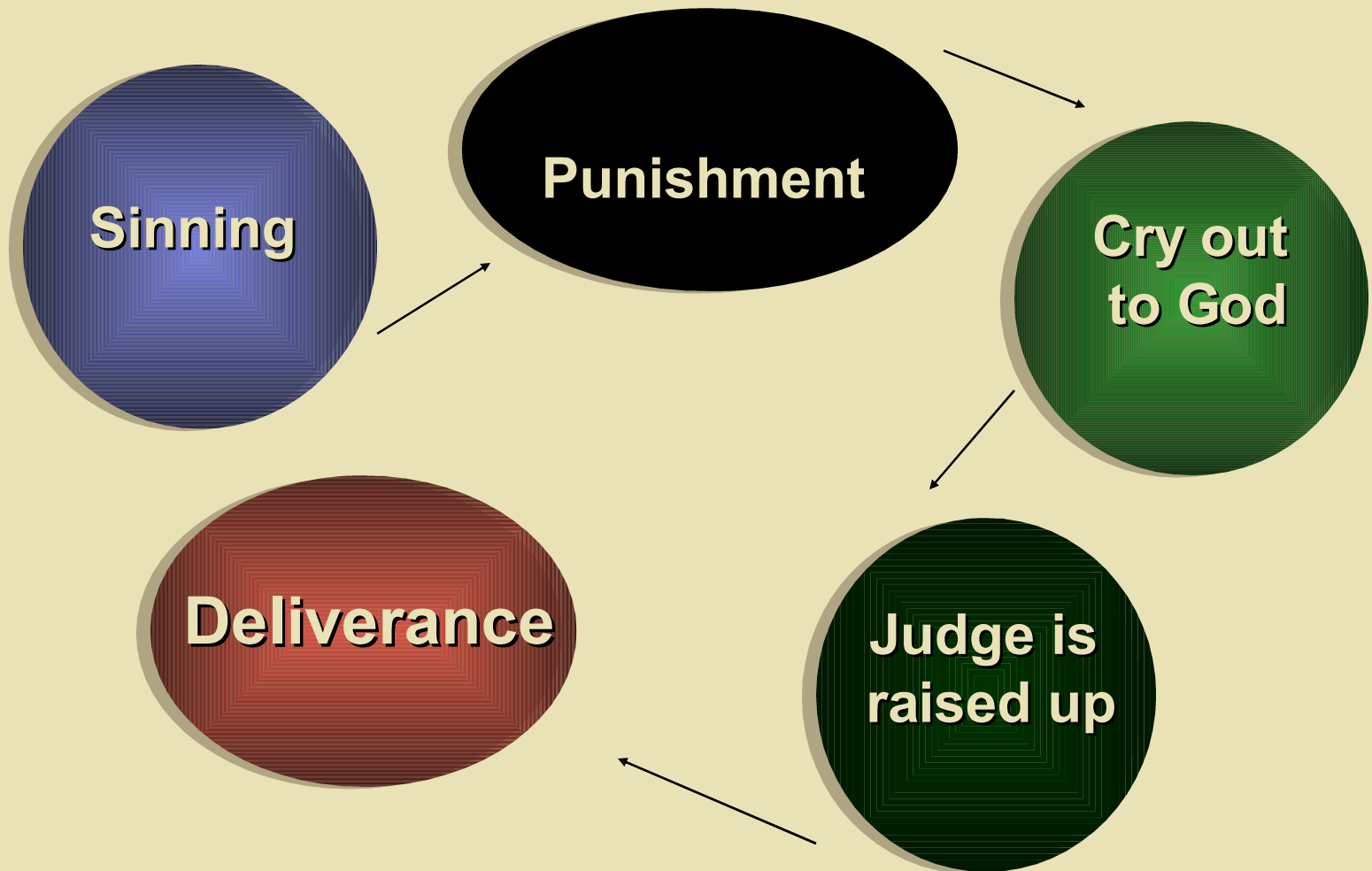
Book of Judges

- ◆ Genre

1. Narrative but an epic literature *parallel with the Greek Epic.

2. Cycle of Heroes

CYCLE



Israel has the tendency to be
unfaithful to Yahweh





Date and Authorship

- ◆ Judge 17:6- the narrator is living around the time of Israel after Joshua.
- ◆ Judge 18:30-On the time of Captivity to Babylon (which was on the later date)

It's hard to identify who and when it was written.



Structure

- ◆ **1. Prologue – Judges 1-2**

Conquest continues but people are breaking down

- ◆ **2. Center – Judges 2-16**

Cycle of sinning and redemption (body of the book)

- ◆ **Epilogue – Judges 17-21**

Ends with shocking readings.



What was a **Judge**?

◆ Not a Judicial Judge!

Judge: Military Leader

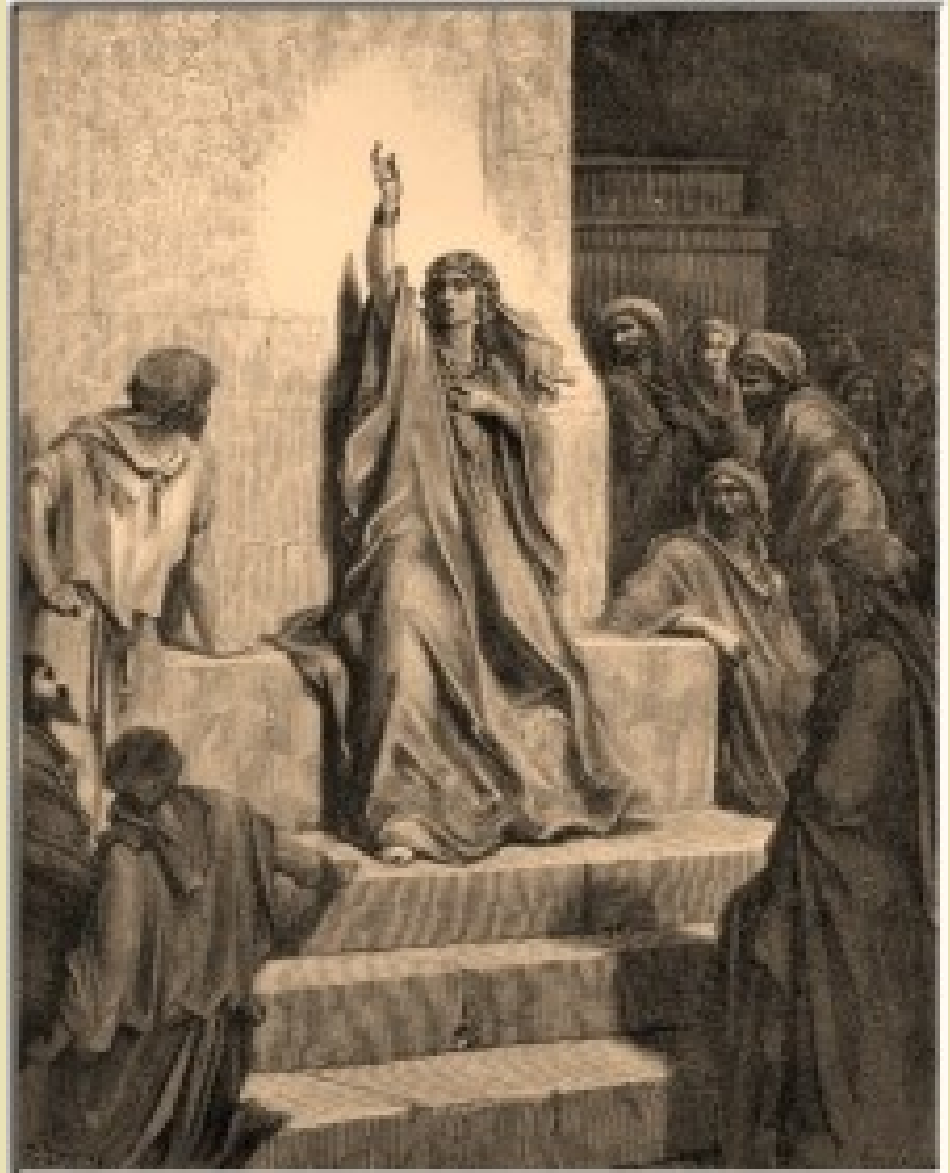
Clan Chieftain

Not Ideal Leader

Not equivalent to
Moses and

Joshua

Deborah



Gideon



Samson





God's relationship with Israel

- ◆ Conditional / Unconditional
- ◆ Israel has to be OBEDIENT
- ◆ God's mercy upon repentance

Inability of people to do right things.



Judge 21:25

...everyone did what was right
in his own eyes.

There was no king

disunity of the 12 tribes of
Israel.



What kind of leadership?

- ◆ Judges won't work !
 - } They need a central government
 - > They need a KING
 - to drive out the Canaanites and the Philistines.



Faith in YHWH

- ◆ **Heb 11:32 – Gideon, Jephtha, Deborah and Samson have faith in God.**
- ◆ **Heb. 11:33 – Faith conquers kingdoms.**



Principle of Interpreting Narrative

- ◆ Narrative doesn't teach a doctrine.
- ◆ But usually illustrate a doctrine taught proportionally elsewhere in the bible.
- ◆ Record what happened and not necessarily what should have happened or what ought to happen.



- ◆ People are not usually good or ideal example.
- ◆ We are not always told at the end of a narrative whether what happen was good or bad.
- ◆ Narrative are sometimes incomplete.



In the final analysis

GOD IS ALWAYS THE HERO



Assignment

- ◆ Write a reflection paper on this theme
“On Being a True Leader”

Guide Questions:

1. What is true leadership?
2. How can you be a good leader and a follower in your context as students?
3. How can these Ignatian terms (magis, amdg and seeing God in all things) be of helped in being a good leader?



Deborah and Jael

- ◆ Deborah means “woman of fire” “bee”
- ◆ Barak means “lightning”
- ◆ Sisera (leader of the enemy) a sea person
- ◆ Jael means “wild gazzele”








Gideon

- ◆ His story told in chapter 6-8.
- ◆ He's the son of Joash and came from the tribe of Manasseh.
- ◆ The name Gideon means “destroyer” or “mighty warrior”



YHWH called Gideon to be a judge when the Israelites again turned away from God after 40 years of peace by Deborah's victory over Canaan.

God chose Gideon from unremarkable tribe of Manasseh to free the people of Israel and condemn their worship of idols.






Gideon's unfaithfulness

- ◆ Very unsure both himself and of God's command, he requested proof of God's will by a miracle.

Read: Judge 6:36-40



Gideon followed God's instruction

- ◆ He went out all over Israel and destroyed town's altar to baal and the symbol of the goddess Ashera.

But he gathered many men and asked 22,000 men to returned home and 10,000 remained.



But then still he needs only 300
men

- ◆ God will separate those soldiers scooping for water by their tongue from those who got down on their knees and drink. (Judges 7:4-7)





Attacking the Midianites

- ◆ They waited till midnight and Gideon gave each of his men a trumpet, a torch and a clay jar.

They quietly surrounded the enemy camp, each torch hidden inside a jar, the every men blew his trumpet and broke his jar to confuse and intimate the enemy.





Gideon's war strategy

- ◆ Surround the Midianite camp
- ◆ Attack late at night
- ◆ Sound trumpet
- ◆ Break pottery jars
- ◆ Raises torches
- ◆ Shout a battle cry: "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon"

Tragic end

- ◆ But at the end he didn't recognize God's role in all his achievements and even made a ephod for himself and even has many concubine-became the father of Abimelech





Samson

- ◆ An angel appeared before ZEALPHONIS and said “You will bear a son, who will some day rescue the Jewish people from the Philistines and he will be extraordinary person.

His name will be Samson,
meaning SUN



He will be consecrated to God


- ◆ Never cut his hair
- ◆ Give him no wine or liquors
- ◆ But nourish him with purest food.



Extraordinary strenght

- ◆ To kill the lion with his bare hands.
- ◆ Killed the whole troop by using the jaw of a goat.
- ◆ Destroy the whole temple.






Samson married a woman from Philistia and asked this riddle to the Philistines.

“Out of the eater came forth meat and out of the strong came forth sweetness. What was it?

What is sweeter than **honey** and what is stronger than **lion**?



Samson was chosen as the 13th judge after Joshua

- ◆ Captured 300 foxes and threw them to the Philistine's farms.
- ◆ He defended the Israelites against this tribe.

But the he married another
Philistine woman

Delilah {languishing}





First attempt of Delilah to know the secret of Samson

- ◆ “If you will bind me with seven new ropes that were never used, then I am no stronger than ordinary men.”



2nd attempt of Delilah to know
the secret.

- ◆ Since my birth, I have never cut my hair, for I am a Nazirite; if my hair is cut, I lose my strength, for Yhwh will not be with me any longer.”



