

# THE DIVINE TAPESTRY

## Part 19

### **“God’s Activity in Perilous Times” (Judges Overview)**

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We are living in an age of declining morals.

- **Among adults who have been married, born-again Christians and non-Christians have essentially the same probability of divorce.**
- **By the end of the decade, 50 million Americans will seek to have their spiritual experience solely through the Internet, rather than at a church; and upward of 100 million Americans will rely upon the Internet to deliver some aspects of their religious experience.**
- **22% believe moral truth exists (down from 38% in 2000); more than 50% support legalizing same sex marriage.**
- **3 out of 10 (30%) of born again adults say co-habitation, gay relationships, sexual fantasies and watching explicit movies are morally acceptable.**

These stats are not just a reflection of our unsaved world, but are also a picture of what happens when God’s people soak up the world’s values. How should we respond?

The Book of Judges tells us how God dealt with His people when they were a nation and gives us principles for today.

# BACKGROUND

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\*A generation of **heroes** led the way into the Promise Land.

\*Judges starts with promise and ends in **anarchy** and **depravity**!

## HOW?

I. The Book of Judges highlights the chronic failure of the second generation.

- **Testing** is **predicted** because of their compromise.
- A cycle emerges:
  - ▶ **Rejection** of God
  - ▶ **Bondage**
  - ▶ **Misery**
  - ▶ **Deliverance** by God's men
  - ▶ **Peace**
  - ▶ **Compromise**

\*The cycle (and the Judges) would spiral downward.

Conclusion: Each man does what is right in their own **eyes**.

## II. Judges also highlights the character of God.

- He does not **compromise**.
- He **chastises** His children to bring them back.
- He raises up a **Deliverer** to draw them out of misery and bondage. (This is not because of their righteousness but because of His love.)

### APPLICATION

- True in every age:
  1. Compromise leads to **permissiveness** when righteousness is ignored.
  2. Permissiveness results in **rationalization** when holiness is ignored.
  3. Rationalization turns to **rebellion** when there is no repentance.
  4. In keeping with His character...God has raised up a **Savior** able to deliver us.