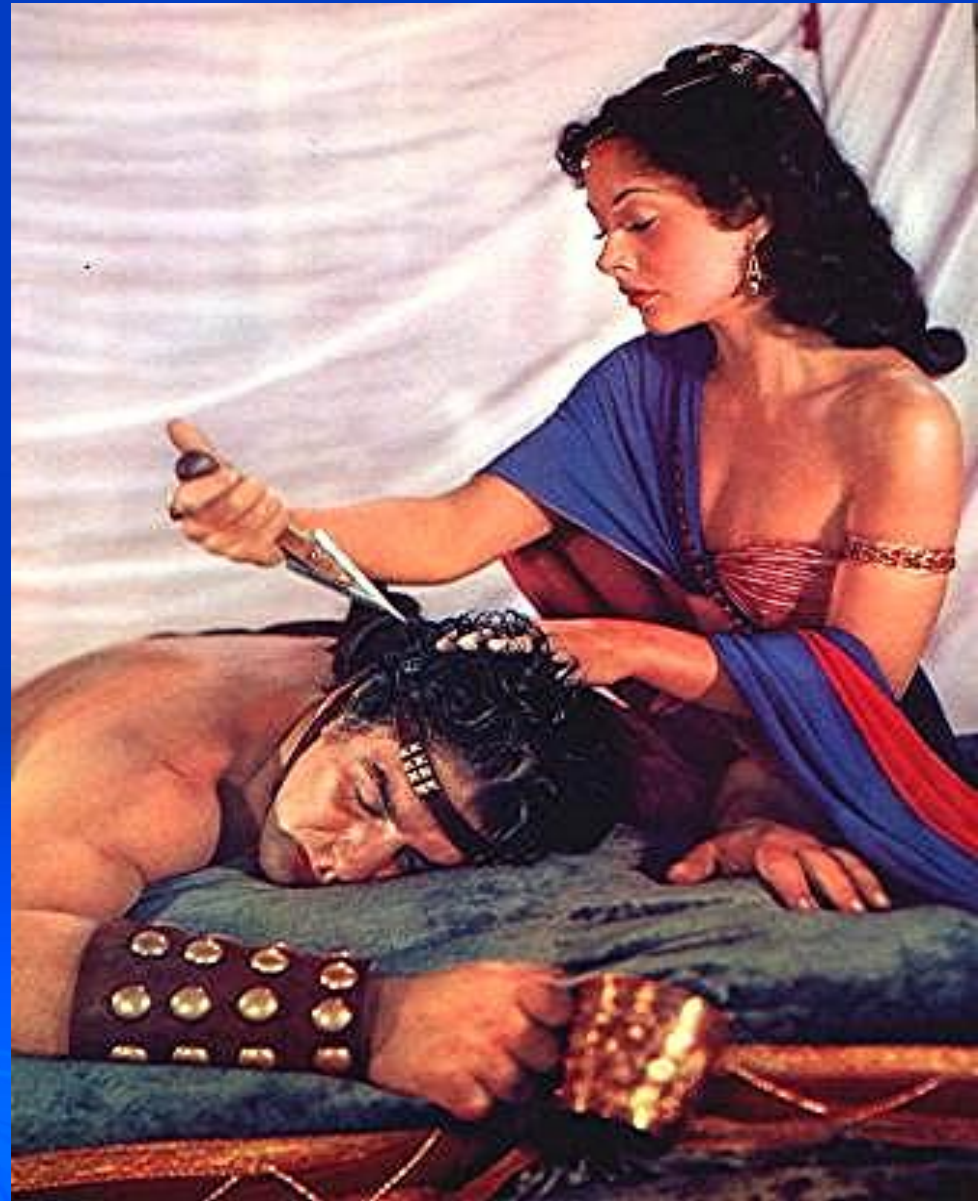


INTRODUCTION TO JUDGES

- Book of Judges one of the lesser read and not well researched books
- Judges has significant parallels to the modern church
- Samson story usually about a heroic figure who martyred himself to destroy pagans
- Like King Solomon, Samson was not an example for us to follow



3 THEMES IN JUDGES

- In Judges we see Israel slide towards national suicide
- A story of sadness and a self-delusional people who pursued other gods while claiming YHWH

➤ 3 Themes:

- 1) Israel's military and spiritual struggles
- 2) God's grace and Israel's unfaithfulness
- 3) The Canaanization of Israel



JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY: PARALLEL TRACKS



- In the days of the Judges a remnant of leaders warned Israel to wake up!
- The majority opposition said that the definition of sin should be altered, Moses' laws outdated and peace with neighbors outweighed land and devotion to God
- **Railroad tracks:**
 - 1) Separate and don't touch
 - 2) Begin, follow, and arrive at the same place

THE WRONG TURN

*How the Church Has Strayed
from True Christianity*

- Centuries of victory in presenting the Gospel in the whole world
- Victory over the greatest evil of Adolph Hitler
- TODAY a growing voice in the church says SIN must be redefined for modern times
- Peace at any price
- Unity means to compromise principles for consensus
- ***“This is NOT the way, walk ye NOT in it!”***
- Current Christian era is a re-make of the Book of Judges!!

NOT *THAT* KIND OF JUDGE!

- Liber Judicum = Kritai = *Shophetim*
- *Shophetim* did NOT operate in the legal sphere
- They only operated among certain tribes at certain times
- They were NOT national leaders
- Savior in a similar sense as Jesus
- Yeshua did NOT come to judge (hand out justice) in His first coming, but to SAVE



WHO WAS A SHOFET?

* Judges/Leaders	Dates (B.C.)	Notes	Deliverer?
1 Othniel	(1373-1334)		Yes
2 Ehud	(1316-1237)		Yes
3 Shamgar	(1265-1252)	He falls within the period of Ehud.	Yes
4 Barak and	(1237-1198)	Concurrent	Yes
5 Deborah			Yes
6 Gideon	(1198-1151)		Yes
Abimelech	(1151-1149)	Self-appointed over a tribe. Not actually a judge.	N/A
7 Tola	(1149-1126)		No
8 Jair	(1126-1105)		No
Eli	(1107-1067)	Not included in the Book of Judges	N/A
9 Jephthah	(1087-1081)		Yes
10 Ibzan	(1081-1075)		No
11 Elon	(1075-1065)		No
12 Samson	(1069-1049)		Yes
Samuel	(1067-1020)	He overlaps with the period of Samson; but he is not included in the Book of Judges.	N/A
13 Abdon	(1065-1058)	He falls within the period of Samuel.	No

- In Moses era he WAS a judicial judge
- Book of Judges identifies 12 (13 counting Deborah)
- Samuel more of a prophet
- Shofet like a Prophet in that he MUST be God-appointed to be legitimate
- Also must be a deliverer, a savior / rescuer

THE ERA OF THE JUDGES

1400 BC

1020 –
1040 BC

995 BC

400 year version

1250 –
1300 BC

200 year version



Judges
written

Bronze
Age

Iron
Age



AN ERA OF INSTABILITY



Urim & Thummim



- Lack of central leadership
- YHWH as king and the Priesthood as His messenger
- Amphictyony = a loose confederation similar to a peace/trade treaty
- Israel's religion and family ties are what bound it together
- Behavior similar to what we see with current Middle Eastern tribes

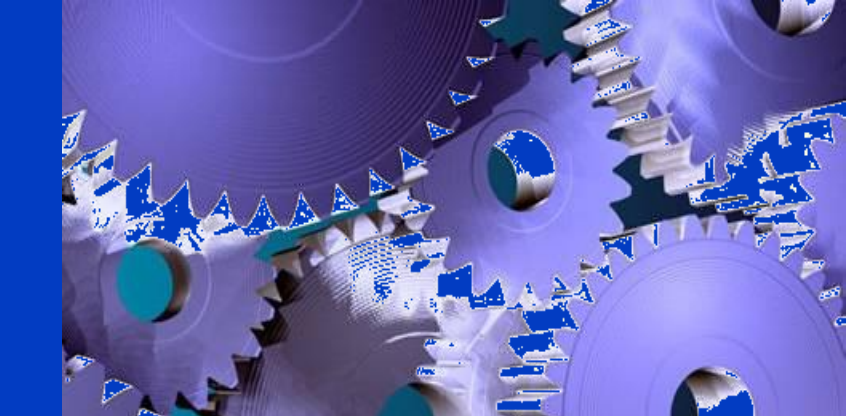
ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF THE JUDGES

- **Shofet** functioned as a savior/rescuer
- 12 -16 Judges depending on definition
- Ruled from death of Joshua to 1020 BC
- No monolithic train of thought
- Israelites had more interest in everyday life of herds, flocks, crops and family
- Joshua's failure to drive out the Canaanites, and instead make treaties, became Israel's Achilles heel
- Israel wanted peace through compromise with neighbors
- No longer wanted to finish the job of conquering Canaan

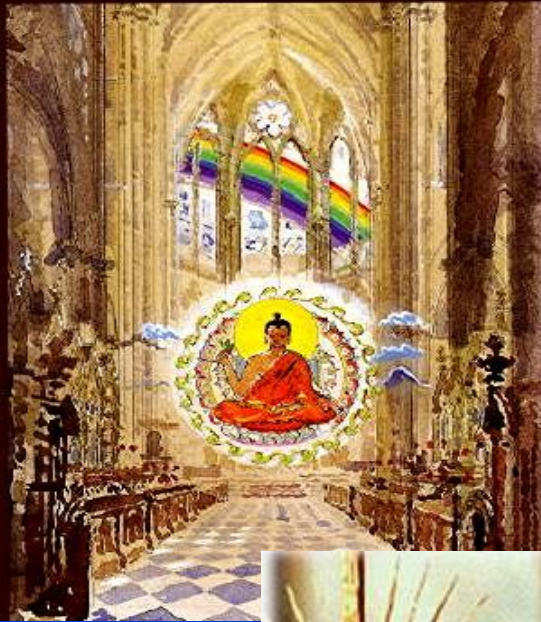


SYNCRETISM

- Mixed marriages between Canaanites and Hebrews became common
- A reconciliation of two different moral or religious systems
- **RESULT**: gods are made co-equal, or one becomes superior to the other
- A whole new system is created
- In time how it all happened is forgotten



The
**INTER-FAITH
MOVEMENT**
The New Age enters the Church



- Church has been engaged in syncretism since gentiles blended the pagan with the Jewish
- Church demographics look the same as the world's in general
- The Lord created distinctions between His people and everyone else, we are to maintain those distinctions
- Syncretism was the downfall of Israel in Judges, and the Church is engulfed in it today

JUDGES HAD CHARACTER FLAWS



- Samson a partier, little interest in spiritual matters
- Jephthah born of a harlot
- Returned at Israel's request to fight off enemy
- Vowed to sacrifice 1st thing to greet him
- His daughter became the innocent victim of Jephthah's perverted mindset

