

Judges Series

Lesson #23

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**History, the Believer,
and the Justice of God**

Judges 3:7, 9



JUDGES

**Moral Relativism
Destroys a Nation**

2021 Series

Outline of “Judges” (Chieftains, Tribal Rulers, Leaders)

1:1–3:6

Introduction

**How Israel went from
spiritual victory
to being worse than
the Canaanites**

Incomplete obedience

Compromise

Failure

Cycles of discipline

3:7–16:31

Paganization of the Leadership

Othniel (the best)

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

Gideon

Tola, Jair

Jephthah

Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

Samson

(the worst)

17:1–21:25

Paganization of the Priests

Chap. 17–18

and the

People

Chap. 19–21

OTHNIEL
The First Judge

Judges 3:7–11

The Divine Indictment

Judg. 3:7, “And the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and the Asheroth.”

The Divine Indictment

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The Divine Indictment

Judg. 3:7, “And the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and the Asheroth.”

שָׁחַח *shakhach* qal
wawConsec 3
masc plur
to forget, to
willfully neglect,
ignore, parallel to
“abandon”

Observations

- 1. Causality in “Structuralism” [the broader philosophical movement of which Braudel was a part, cf., *Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*] is the structure (history), not the individual.**

Observations

“Men do not make history, rather it is history above all that makes men and absolves them of blame.”

~Fernand Braudel

2. Thus the components, in the case of history, man, is basically irrelevant, just a pawn of impersonal force, i.e., “history.” Thus the focus in historical study is the impersonal forces and personal volitional decisions are irrelevancies.

3. Man therefore is a victim, we are only what history and our culture has made us.

4. Therefore, man is not *individually* responsible.

5. In contrast the Bible says the ultimate cause in history is God who:

a. created *ex nihilo* everything from nothing.

b. oversees His creatures and creation to bring about His desired will, without destroying human responsibility. The combination of His unlimited knowledge (omniscience) and unlimited ability (omnipotence) enable Him to accomplish His will without destroying human volition.

5. In contrast the Bible says the ultimate cause in history is God who:

c. Thus, God is the ultimate cause in human history working through intermediate causes.

***But even when those intermediate causes are inadequate, God always is able to accomplish His will.**

6. In terms of causation, it is not “laws” within the creation that move history, i.e., political theories, economic laws, natural resources, military technology, numerical superiority, etc., but volitional decisions in relation to God and Bible doctrine. Other laws are secondary observations impacted foremost by rejection or application of doctrine.

**Example: Blessings and curses, Lev. 26.
Defeat of the Canaanites under Joshua.**

**7. Conclusion: as goes volition at God
consciousness and at gospel hearing, so goes
the nation, as goes the volition of the believer
so goes the nation.**

Three Principles Govern Post-Modern History

- 1. Since there are so many different opinions and views of history there must not be any historical truth. Therefore we simply impose our own meaning on the past, present, and future.**

Three Principles Govern Post-Modern History

2. There are so many events that the historian imputes his own values and judgment into every historical analysis so we must deconstruct those values.

Three Principles Govern Post-Modern History

3. Facts and data are boring, uninteresting, and irrelevant.

Conclusion:

So with the removal of truth, we can now revise history to fit our political/social agendas.

Examples:

- **The Holocaust didn't happen. Holocaust denial has increased in recent years.**
- **Marxism is the best we can do: no one has ever really tried it. We can succeed where others failed.**
- **The birth of Critical Race Theory.**