



Judges 8:3 ...At this, their resentment against him subsided.

Judges 8:4 Gideon and his three hundred men, exhausted yet keeping up the pursuit, came to the Jordan and crossed it. <sup>5</sup> He said to the men of Succoth, "Give my troops some bread; they are worn out, and I am still pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian."

Judges 8:6 But the officials of Succoth said, "**Do you already have** the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna in your possession? **Why should we give bread to your troops?**" ...

<sup>8</sup> From there he went up to Peniel and made the same request of them, but they answered as the men of Succoth had.

Judges 8:33 No sooner had Gideon died than the Israelites again prostituted themselves to the Baals. They set up Baal-Berith as their god and <sup>34</sup> did not remember the LORD their God, who had rescued them from the hands of all their enemies on every side.

Judges 8:35 They also failed to show kindness to the family of Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) for all the good things he had done for them.

Key: page 2: Disobedience; Distress; Do; Deliverance.

Good; Managed; Blessed; Wounded.

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# THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

## The Pursuit of "The Good Life"

The Story—part 8

Books of Judges

October 30, 2016

**God's upper story. God wants to be with us  
and will pay any price to make it so.**

### The cycle of sin

Judges 2:10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.

<sup>11</sup> Then the Israelites **did evil** in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals.

Judges 2:12 They **forsook** the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They provoked the LORD to anger <sup>13</sup> because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.

<sup>14</sup> In his anger against Israel **the LORD handed them over to raiders** who plundered them. He sold them to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist.

<sup>15</sup> Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the LORD was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in **great distress**.

<sup>16</sup> Then **the LORD raised up judges**, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders.

<sup>17</sup> Yet they **would not listen to their judges** but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. Unlike their fathers, they quickly



turned from the way in which their fathers had walked, the way of obedience to the LORD's commands.

<sup>18</sup> Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them.

<sup>19</sup> But when the judge died, **the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers**, following other gods and serving and worshipping them. They **refused** to give up their **evil practices** and **stubborn ways**.

**The cycle of sin:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ ! 3. “ \_\_\_ Something!” 4. \_\_\_\_\_

What's *their* top priority in life? “THE \_\_\_\_\_ LIFE”

How do people try to get “The Good Life”?

- The “M \_\_\_\_\_” life -
- The “B \_\_\_\_\_” life –
- The “W \_\_\_\_\_” life –

**Commitment to the good life over relationship with God.**

*Judges 6:6 Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the LORD for help.*

*Judges 6:7 When the Israelites cried to the LORD because of Midian, <sup>8</sup> he sent them a prophet ...*

*Judges 6:8 He sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>9</sup> I snatched you from the power of Egypt and from the hand of all your oppressors. I drove them from before you and gave you their land. <sup>10</sup> I said to you, 'I am the LORD your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' **But you have not listened to me.**"*



*Judges 6:11 The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites.*

*Judges 6:12 When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."*

*Judges 6:13 "But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian."*

*Judges 6:14 The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"*

*Judges 6:15 "But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."<sup>16</sup> The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."*

*Judges 8:1 Now the Ephraimites asked Gideon, "Why have you treated us like this? Why didn't you call us when you went to fight Midian?" And they criticized him sharply.*

