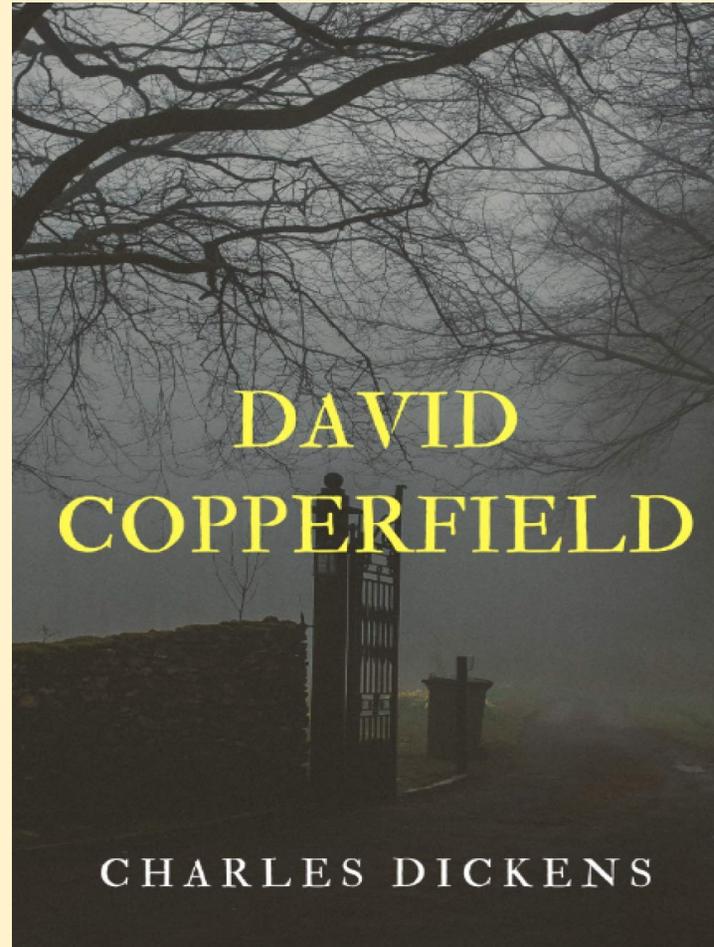




Zealous Love

HEROES

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THE BOOK OF JUDGES

CHAPTER 1

NOW after the death of Jōsh'u-ā it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Cā'nāanites, to fight against them? the LORD said, Jū'dah shall behold, I have delivered thee out of this hand.

Jū'dah said unto Sīm'e-on his brother, Come up with me into my fight against the Cā'nāanites. I likewise will go with thee.

So Sīm'e-on went up; and the

LORD delivered the Cā'nāanites into the Pēr'iz-zites and they slew of them in Bē'zek sand men.

5 And they found Ā-dō'ni-bē'zek and they slew him, and cau-
6 But Ā-dō'ni-bē'zek fled; and pursued after him, and cut off his thumbs and toes.

7 And Ā-dō'ni-bē'zek gathered together kings, and ten kings, and their meat as I have done, so



25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

—Judges 21:25

⁶ After Joshua had dismissed the Israelites, they went to take possession of the land, each to their own inheritance.

⁷ The people served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel.

⁸ Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten.

⁹ And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.

¹⁰ After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.

¹¹ Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals.

¹² They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them.

They aroused the Lord's anger ¹³ because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.

¹⁴ In his anger against Israel the Lord gave them into the hands of raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders.

¹⁷ Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. They quickly turned from the ways of their ancestors, who had been obedient to the Lord's commands.

¹⁸ 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 relented because of their groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them.

¹⁹ But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their ancestors, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

²⁰ Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel and said,

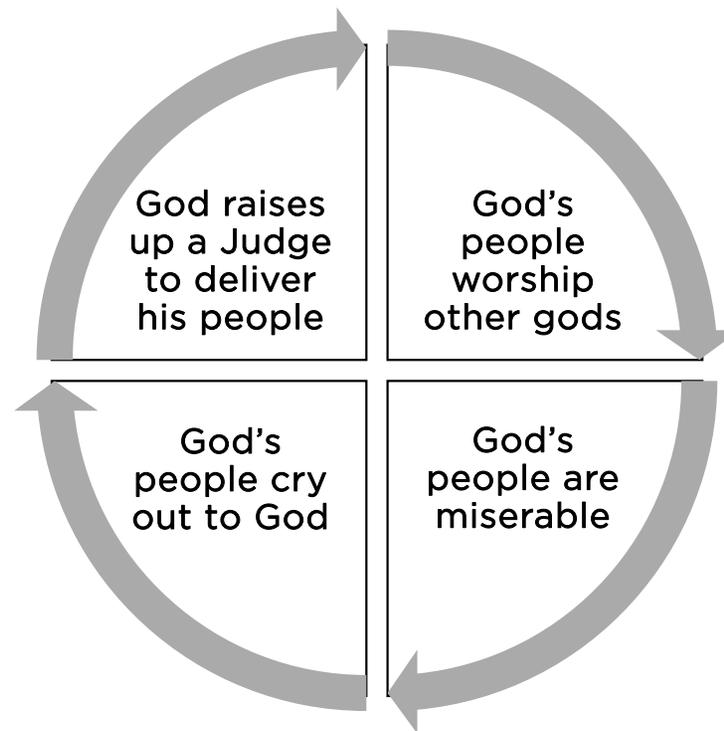
“Because this nation has violated the covenant I ordained for their ancestors and has not listened to me, ²¹ I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died.

²² I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the Lord and walk in it as their ancestors did.”

²³ The Lord had allowed those nations to remain; he did not drive them out at once by giving them into the hands of Joshua.

—Judges 2:6-23

The Cycle of Judges



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1. The Roots of Our Problem
2. The Ground of Our Hope

¹⁰ After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, **another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done** for Israel.

—Judges 2:10

Reflection Questions

1. For parents: How are you passing on your faith to your children?
2. If you are not living with children in your home: How are you praying for and sharing your faith with younger generations?

¹¹ Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals.

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¹² They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them.

—Judges 2:11-12

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;
I fled Him, down the arches of the years;
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways

Of my own mind; and in the midst of tears
I hid from Him...

—Francis Thompson
The Hound of Heaven

¹⁴ In his anger against Israel the Lord gave them into the hands of raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist.

—Judges 2:14

“You can’t understand the seriousness of idolatry without understanding the jealousy of God. [...]

And you can’t understand his jealousy without some understanding of his relentless, powerful love for you...”

—Kyle Idleman
Gods At War

24 For the Lord your God is a
consuming fire, ***a jealous God.***
—Deuteronomy 4:24

¹⁴ Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

—Exodus 34:14

¹⁸ Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For **the Lord was moved to pity** by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them.

—Judges 2:18

¹⁶ Then the Lord raised up judges,
who saved them out of the hands
of these raiders.

—Judges 2:16

The Ground of Our Hope

- God is not only passionate about you
- God not only has compassion for you
- God is also gracious toward you
- God raises up a deliverer for guilty people



Transformation

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Transformation

The only way your life will change is when you deal with the idols of your heart.

Until you know there is something better, and it is God.

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- God is passionate about you.
- God has compassion for you.
- God is gracious toward you and has raised up a deliverer for you.
- God alone is worth your worship.



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