



Judges

*When Wrong becomes Right*



## **FORWARD**

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Ours is a culture that celebrates immorality. While once we held to a Christian veneer, now sexual sin is pushed as progressive, abortion is funded by tax dollars, and the fear of the Lord has been replaced with the celebration of self. Where people used to blush, they now boast. Our society has been “liberated” from biblical ethics, and in its place has produced a culture of death. People define virtue not on God’s terms, but instead as doing what is right in their own eyes. Even in churches the gospel of grace is often replaced with a man-centered watered-down substitute, as if acceptability were the goal and compromise the means God has chosen to establish his church.

Has there ever been another culture that has slid this far, this fast?

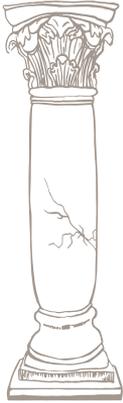
Yes, and yes. While the US has the evils of abortion and slavery for which to answer, Israel too had her own sin that led to its ruin. Moses may have led them across the wilderness, but his grandson inaugurated a religion of idols. The generation that ate manna gave way to the generation that delighted itself in doing evil. Those that received the Torah were replaced by those that sold idols—and they did so at a discounted price. Israel shed tears at Joshua’s death, and then rejected Joshua’s God. Their men refused to lead, their leaders were sexually immoral, cowards,

and idolaters. Human sacrifice became an acceptable form of worship.

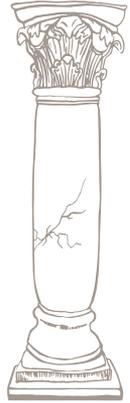
And yet God remained their only hope. Despite their recalcitrance and self-reliance, Yahweh insisted on raising up savior after savior, one deliverer after another. Where sin abounded, God's deliverance abounded all the more, and behind every miracle was the promise that God would one day send a savior who was not a sinful Judge, but sinless king.

For this reason, Judges is an important book for our church to study. It may not show us how to live, but it shows us what kind of God we live for. Ours is not the only generation to do what is right in our own eyes.

Jesse Johnson  
Teaching Pastor



# Judges



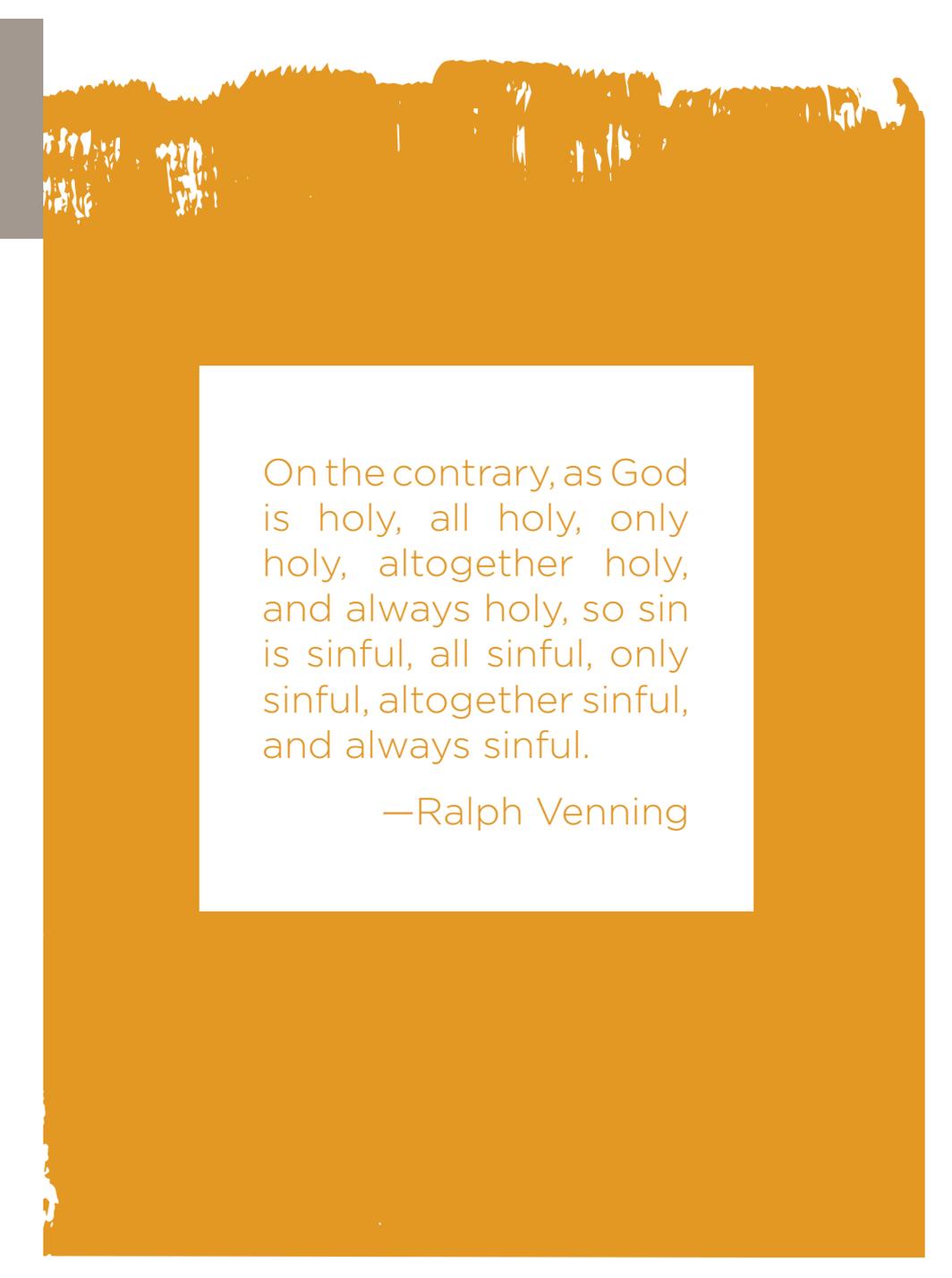




A  
Road  
Map  
to  
Failure

CHAPTER 1





On the contrary, as God  
is holy, all holy, only  
holy, altogether holy,  
and always holy, so sin  
is sinful, all sinful, only  
sinful, altogether sinful,  
and always sinful.

—Ralph Venning



MEET  
ISRAEL:  
a land of  
TEARS



CHAPTERS  
2 & 3





PEOPLE LOVE SIN. GOD SENDS ENEMIES.  
GOD GIVES A JUDGE, THE JUDGE LIVES PEACE.  
PEOPLE SIN WORSE THAN BEFORE.  
PEOPLE CRY FOR HELP. JUDGE THEM.

Meet Jael:  
Real men don't drink  
Warm Milk



CHAPTERS

4 & 5



*It is difficult to be creative in sin; there's a certain monotony about it; most all of it has been done before; The fast lane becomes an old rut. Evil never lends itself to originality. Hence there are two problems: the slavery and staleness of sin.*

*—Dale Ralph Davis*

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**“This is  
Yahweh’s doing/  
we can only  
marvel at it”**

Psalm 118:23

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MEET

Gideon

THE GENERAL

who uses

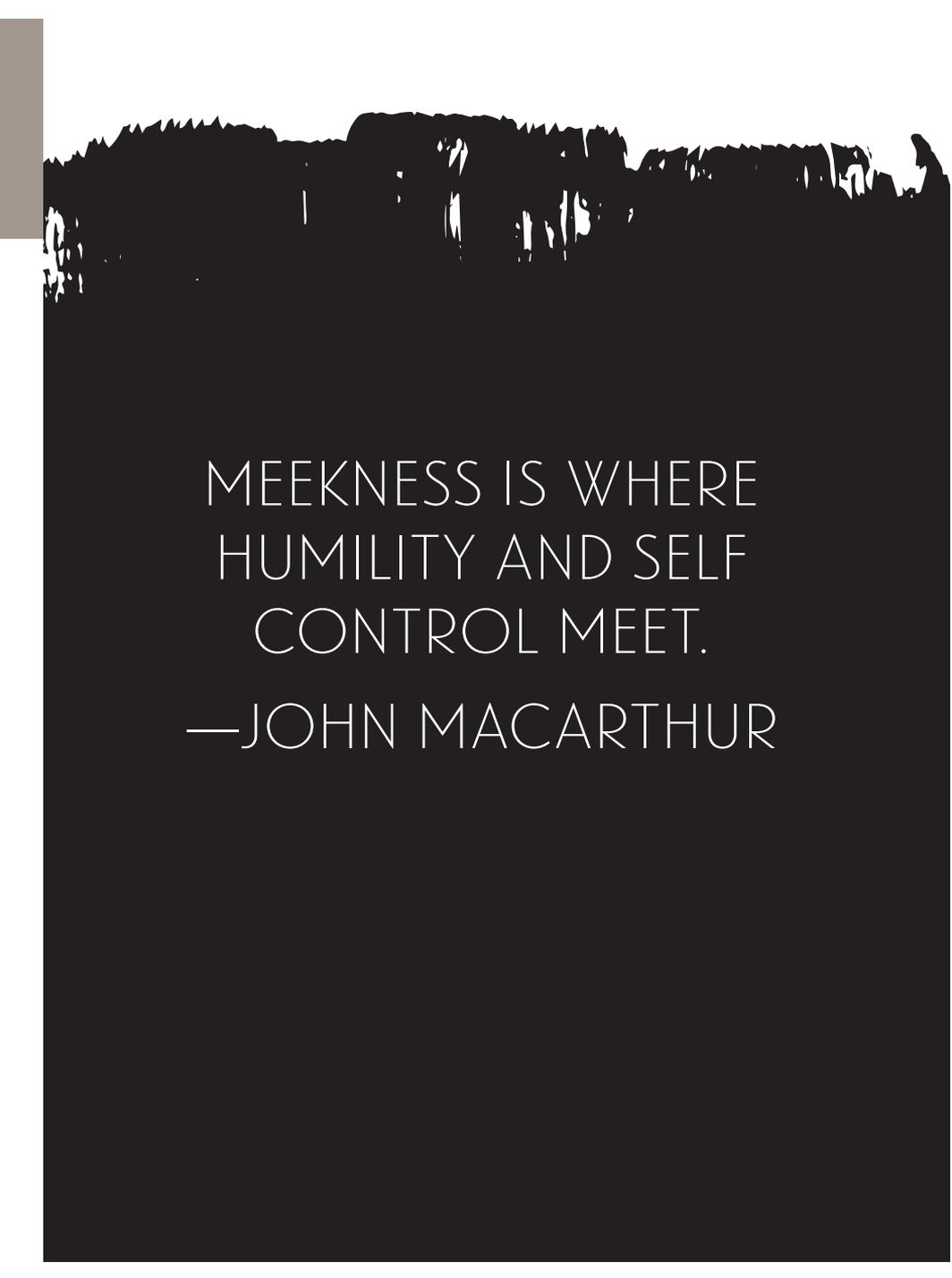
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Nightlight



CHAPTER 6



A black and white photograph of a herd of elephants in a savanna, with a dark silhouette of a herd in the foreground.

MEEKNESS IS WHERE  
HUMILITY AND SELF  
CONTROL MEET.

—JOHN MACARTHUR



*A Glorious*  
INSUFFICIENCY



CHAPTER 7

# A GLORIOUS INSUFFICIENCY

JUDGES 7

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**“WITH GOD, ONE IS  
MARTIN L**

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# E IS A MAJORITY” N LUTHER

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## SERMON OUTLINE:

- 1 You are not as good as you think you are. (1-14)
- 2 God is better than you think he is. (15-22)
- 3 You can do more than you think you can. (23-25)

*“My grace is  
sufficient for  
you, for power  
is perfected in  
weakness.”*

**2 Corinthians 12:9**





How To  
RUIN  
a good  
Life.

CHAPTERS  
8 & 9



EVERYONE  
WANTS TO  
BE HAPPY,  
EVERYONE IS  
TRYING  
TO BE HAPPY,  
BUT NO ONE  
IS HAPPY.

**AUGUSTINE**



# **3 PREDICTORS OF A DISASTROUS FINISH TO YOUR LIFE:**

- 1 Mised private life
- 2 Misplaced worship
- 3 Missed opportunity



MEET  
Jephthah:  
WHEN Wrong  
BECOMES  
Right.



CHAPTERS

10 & 11





Mistakes in Seeking  
GOD'S  
HELP:

- 1 Bargaining with God.
- 2 Offering a sinful sacrifice.
- 3 Vowing a vow.
- 4 Keeping a sinful vow.



THE  
SHIBBOLETH  
— OF —  
PRIDE  
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CHAPTER

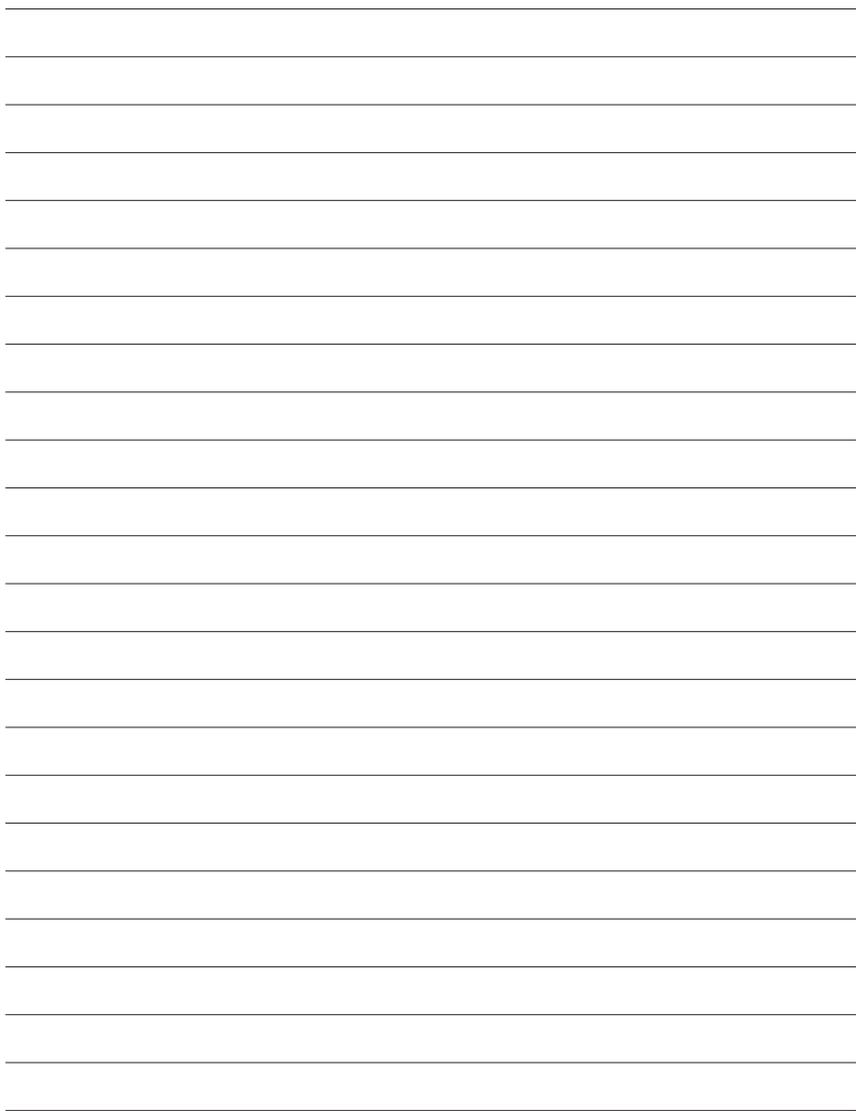
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**In all heaven  
and earth,  
pride and  
self-exaltation  
are the gate  
and the curse  
of hell.**

***- Andrew Murray***

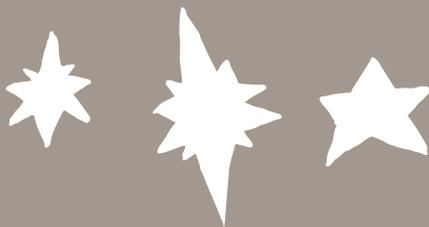




“Teacher, we  
saw someone  
casting out demons  
in your name, and  
we tried to stop him,  
because he wasn’t  
following us.”

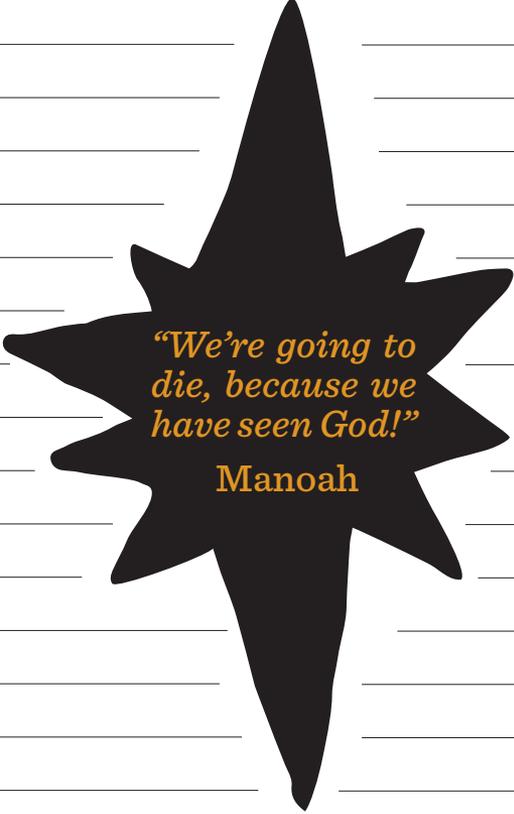
--John, Mark 9:38

ISRAEL'S  
*first*  
CHRISTMAS



CHAPTER  
13





*“We’re going to  
die, because we  
have seen God!”*

**Manoah**



MEET  
SAMSON:  
*Fed by Lions,*  
Married to a cow.



CHAPTERS

14 & 15



“If you prick us  
do we not bleed?  
If you tickle us do  
we not laugh? If  
you poison us do  
we not die? And if  
you wrong us shall  
we not revenge?”

- Shakespeare





Death  
— and —  
Delilah:  
SIN MAKES YOU STUPID.

CHAPTER

16



SAMSON  
PROVES YOU  
CAN STRANGLE  
A LION, BUT NOT  
STRANGLE LUST.  
YOU CAN BREAK  
THE BONDS OF  
YOUR ENEMIES,  
BUT NOT BREAK  
THE CORDS OF  
YOUR LUST.

— AMBROSE

DO NOT BE DECEIVED,

GOD IS NOT MOCKED,

FOR WHATEVER A

MAN SOWS THAT

WILL HE ALSO REAP.

- GALATIANS 6:7

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TEN  
SHEKELS  
*and a*  
SHIRT.

CHAPTERS

17 & 18



*The liberal says the end of religion is to make man happy while he's alive, and the fundamentalist says the end of religion is to make man happy when he dies; both are examples of idolatry. —Paris Reidhead*



TORN  
for the 12  
TRIBES

A decorative flourish consisting of several overlapping, curved lines that form a horizontal, somewhat symmetrical shape, resembling a stylized wave or a calligraphic ornament.

CHAPTER

19



"When I survey  
The wondrous  
CROSS  
On which the  
Prince of  
Glory  
Died,  
My richest  
Tain I count  
but loss, and  
pour contempt on  
All my  
PRIDE."

Isaac Watts

B

But He was wounded for our  
transgressions; He was crushed  
for our iniquities; upon Him  
was the chastisement that  
brought us peace.

—Isaiah 53:5

SPARING  
the  
ROD,  
—  
HATING  
— the —  
FLOCK

CHAPTER  
20:1-34



***“He who is  
often reprov-  
ed,  
yet stiffens  
his neck, will  
suddenly be  
broken beyond  
healing.”***

**Proverbs 29:1**



A  
Wedding  
From a  
Funeral

CHAPTERS  
20:35-21:25



**“This, then, is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.”**

**—Jesus in John 3:19**

*God would  
never permit  
any evil if  
he could not  
bring good  
out of evil.*

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THOMAS  
WATSON



" IN OTHNIEL  
*we learned that*  
GOD *can* SAVE  
Through ALL,  
IN Deborah  
THAT HE *can*  
SAVE THROUGH  
*many,*  
IN Gideon  
THAT HE *CAN*  
*save through few*  
*and* IN *that*  
SAMSON HE *CAN*  
SAVE *through*  
ONE.  
*God will save by sending*  
The ONE."

—TIM KELLER





IMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH

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