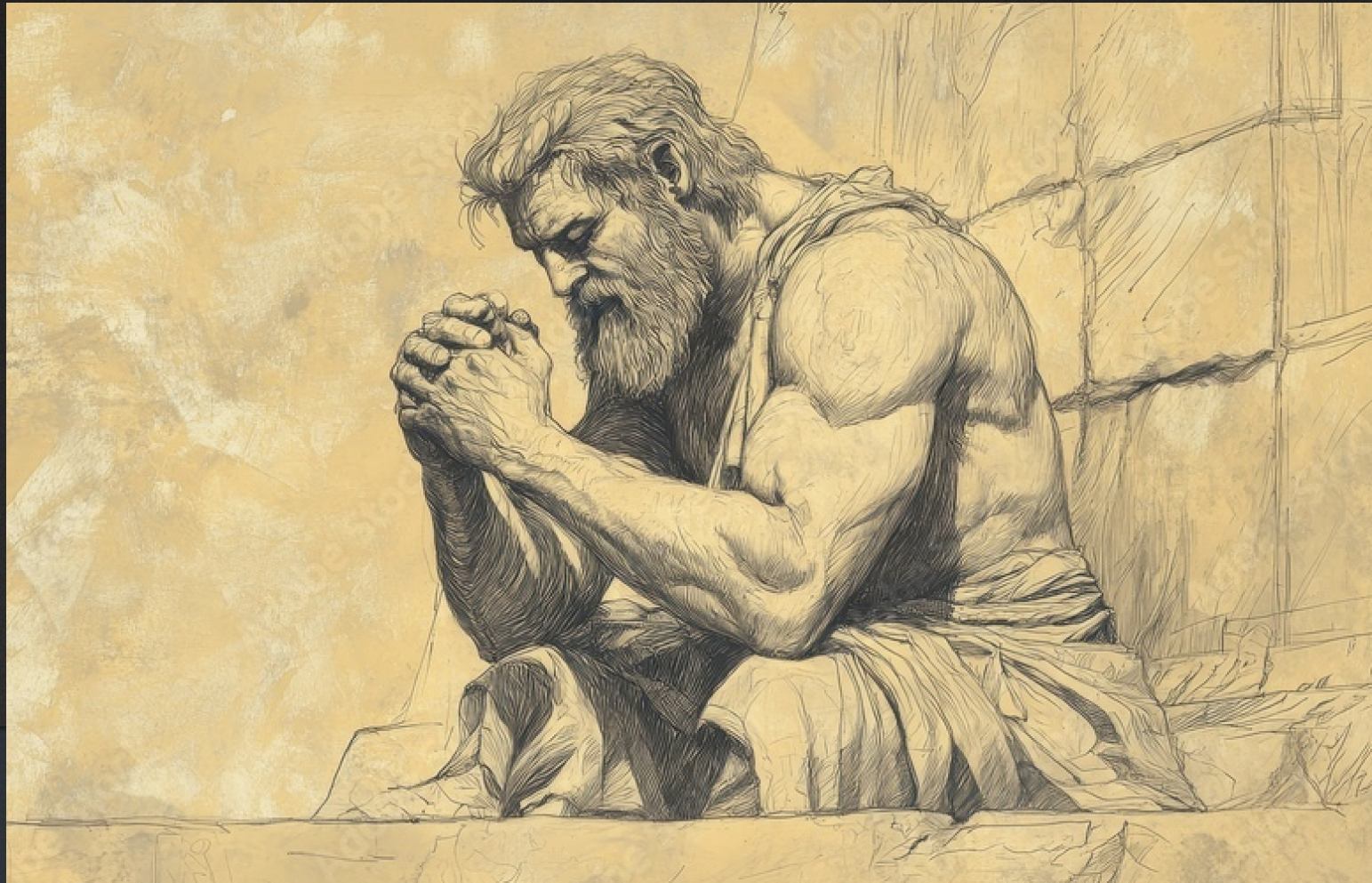


May 25–31
Judges 2–4; 6–8; 13–16
“The Lord Raised Up a Deliverer”



Captivity and Delivery

The Cycle of Sin and Deliverance in the Book of Judges



Captivity and Delivery

Judg 2:7-11

What changed between the generation of Joshua and the next generation that led to Israel's decline?

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

"Despite the astonishing heavenly interventions, visitations, rescues, and miraculous victories the children of Israel witnessed during the lifetimes of Moses and Joshua, within a generation the people had abandoned the Way and began walking according to their own desires. And, of course, it did not take long before they paid the price for that behavior....

"No matter how strong our spiritual experiences have been in the past, as human beings we tend to wander. That has been the pattern from the days of Adam until now." (CR, Oct. 2021)

Captivity and Delivery

Judg 2:16-17

What patterns in this passage help explain why the Israelites fell into idolatry?

Mark E. Petersen

“In spite of their apostate ways, [the Lord] still endeavored to keep his promise to Abraham by saving this stubborn people from themselves.

“The Lord determined upon a new form of government... [and] from among the people he ‘raised up judges’ as deliverers and leaders in their battles, but also to provide some semblance of centralized authority....

”And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods...” (Three Kings of Israel, pg. 10)

Captivity and Delivery

Judg 2:1-3

What does this passage teach about the consequences of Israel's failure to obey the Lord's command?

What consequences does the Lord say will result from Israel not driving out the Canaanites?

Sidney B. Sperry

"Israel's conduct during this period had a lasting effect upon her religion and morals. For centuries Israel's prophets and wise men referred to it and denounced her allegiance to old Canaanite practices. It is plain that Israel, during the period of the Judges, compromised her relatively high religious ideals with Canaanite practices and certain elements in her population must have apostatized completely." (Spirit of the Old Testament, pg. 51–52)

Captivity and Delivery

Judg 2:20-22

Deborah

Judg 4:1-5

What role does Deborah play in Israel during this time, and what does that tell us about her?

Deborah

Judg 4:6-9

What command from the Lord does Deborah remind Barak of in this passage?

What did the Lord promise to do if Barak followed His command?

What condition did Barak give before he would obey the Lord's command?

Gideon

Judg 7:12

Gideon

Judg 6:12-16

In what ways did Gideon question the Lord's call, and how did the Lord respond to his concerns?

James E. Faust

“The Lord has a great work for each of us to do. You may wonder how this can be. You may feel that there is nothing special or superior about you or your ability. Perhaps you feel, or have been told, that you are stupid. Many of us have felt that and some of us have been told that. Gideon felt this when the Lord asked him to save Israel from the Midianites....

“The Lord can do remarkable miracles with a person of ordinary ability who is humble, faithful, and diligent in serving the Lord and seeks to improve himself. This is because God is the ultimate source of power.” (CR, Oct. 1995)

Gideon

Judg 7:1-7

What lesson did the Lord intend to teach Israel by greatly reducing the size of its army?

Robert J. Matthews

“This is an example of the way the Lord works-not by physical or worldly force but by divine power and miracles.... We see the principle at work again in the episode of David and Goliath and in the account of Gideon's victory with his army of three hundred men, a number reduced from a larger one. The Israelites had to believe that God would deliver them, over and beyond what they could do themselves. They were not to trust in the arm of flesh. This is still the way the Lord works among the children of men today.” (A Bible! A Bible!, pg. 62)

Gideon

Judg 7:19-21

Samson

Judg 13:1-5,24

What was unique about Samson's birth and calling, and what does it reveal about God's plan for Israel?

Samson

Judg 14:5-6

According to the passage, what enabled Samson to overpower the lion?

Samson

Judg 14:19

Again, what enabled Samson to have
overpower strength?

Samson

Judg 16:17-20

What did Samson do that caused him to lose the strength that the Lord had blessed him with?

Wilford Woodruff

“I have seen Oliver Cowdery when it seemed as though the earth trembled under his feet. I never heard a man bear a stronger testimony than he did when under the influence of the Spirit. But the moment he left the kingdom of God, that moment his power fell like lightning from heaven. He was shorn of his strength, like Samson in the lap of Delilah. He lost the power and testimony which he had enjoyed, and he never recovered it again in its fulness while in the flesh.... It does not pay a man to sin or to do wrong.” (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Wilford Woodruff, pg. 105)

Samson

Judg 16:26-30

What does Samson's final prayer and action reveal about the source of his strength at the end of his life?

Victor L. Ludlow

“As Delilah cut Samson's hair, his vow was broken, and the Lord's power departed from him.

“When a Nazarite vow or covenant was broken, it was sometimes possible to renew the vow after a period of repentance. (Num. 6:9-12.) Apparently Samson went through a period of repentance and recommitment because he again received extraordinary strength as he destroyed the Philistine temple and his own life.

“Tragedy came upon Samson because as he broke one commandment (morality) he lost the Spirit of the Lord. This led to his breaking other covenants and resulted in weakness, blindness, slavery, and death (both physical and spiritual).” (Unlocking the Old Testament, pg. 72)

Next Week:

June 1–7

Ruth; 1 Samuel 1–3

“My Heart Rejoiceth in the Lord”

