

F260

A BIBLE READING PLAN FOR BUSY BELIEVERS

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JUDGES: WITHOUT A KING

- Judges divides into three sections:

CONTEXT

1-2

Failure to Follow
Through

CAROUSEL

3-16

The S.W.O.R.D.
Cycle of Judges

CHAOS

17-21

No King in the
Land of Israel

CONTEXT:

- 1. The people fail to follow through > idolatrous peoples remain in land**
- 2. The judges are local and perhaps concurrent (no central story...)**
- 3. Most of the book is cyclical, not linear.**
- 4. The concluding chapters of Judges vs. the concluding chapters of Joshua...**

CAROUSEL: S.W.O.R.D.

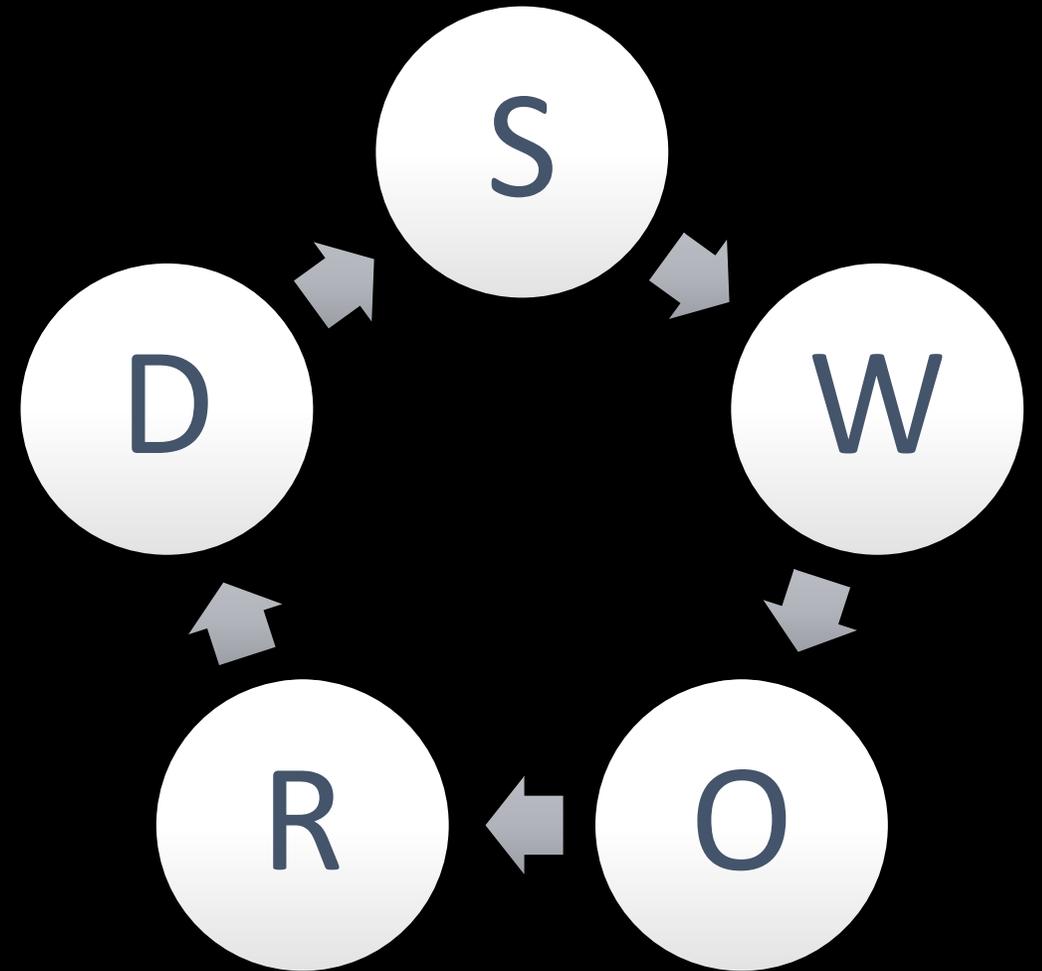
S - Sin: the people do what is evil in God's sight.

W - Wrath: God's wrath is invoked in response to violations of the covenant.

O - Oppression: God raises a foreign power to oppress His people.

R - Repentance: The repent and cry out for God's help.

D - Deliverance: God raises up a "judge" to deliver His people.



CHAOS: WITHOUT A KING

- **End of Joshua (24:15): "If it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve..."**
- **The last figure of the Judges cycle is led astray by his eyes, blind to betrayal by the women in his life, blinded by his captors, and only really sees things clearly at the end.**
- **The last several chapters of Judges have the refrain, "In those days there was no king in Israel." The first and last, Judges 17:6 and 21:25.**

17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel;
everyone did whatever seemed right to him.

18:1 In those days, there was no king in Israel,
and the Danite tribe was looking for territory to
occupy.

19:1 In those days, when there was no king in
Israel, a Levite staying in a remote part of the
hill country of Ephraim acquired a woman from
Bethlehem in Judah as his concubine.

21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel;
everyone did whatever seemed right to him.

CONCLUSION:

- **The people are functioning as tribes, not nation. The 12 tribes will not be united until the reign of King David.**
- **Israel is not walking in obedience to their covenantal calling; each does what is right "in his own eyes."**
- **Rather than being a light to the nations, they are constantly led astray by the nations (thorns and snares).**
- **We are moving from rule by judges to rule by kings (representative rule): "as goes the king, so goes the kingdom ... and the covenant."**