

**When God's people are
unspiritual, the nation decays.**

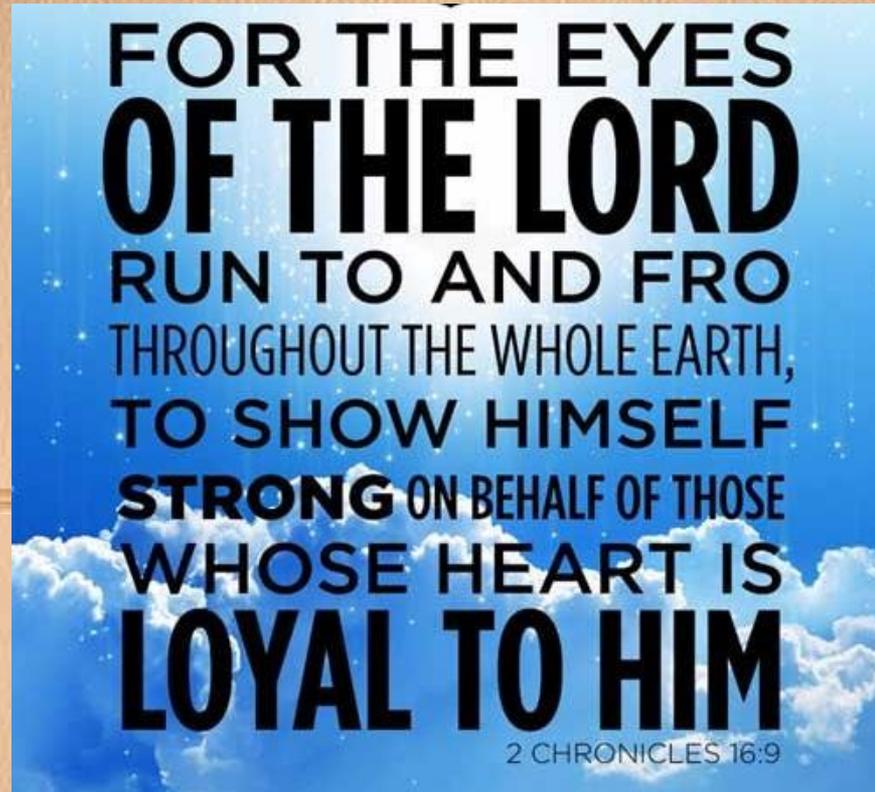
Apostacy and anarchy go together.

*“The church is most effective when it
is the least like the world.”*

As salt and light, we can preserve the nation.

Compromising Christians not only hurt
themselves, and the church, but the nation.

God is looking for servants in every age!



- We must make ourselves available like Gideon & Deborah and others did!

God Gives Nations the Leaders They Deserve

Do men make the times, or do the times make the men?

- As Israel declined so did the judges.
 - Who was the worst?
 - Abimelech “the bramble king.”
 - Samson – strong but weak spiritually.
 - Gideon, Jephthah, etc. did acts of faith but provided *no enduring leadership*.

The Golden Age of David was a notable exception.

When the righteous rule, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.



His skillful hands

Psalm 78:72

God still blesses those who live by faith

Faith is not believing in spite of evidence (this is superstition) but obeying in spite of the consequences.

We must stand with God even when we feel *alone*, or *afraid*.

God honors even weak faith and seeks to make it stronger. (Similar to strengthening a muscle).

God story isn't finished yet

Judges is depressing, but it isn't the end of the story!

Six OT books begin with: “Now it came to pass”/or “as it was.” Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 2 Samuel, Esther, Ezekiel. Why?

Because it all a part of a *continuing story!*

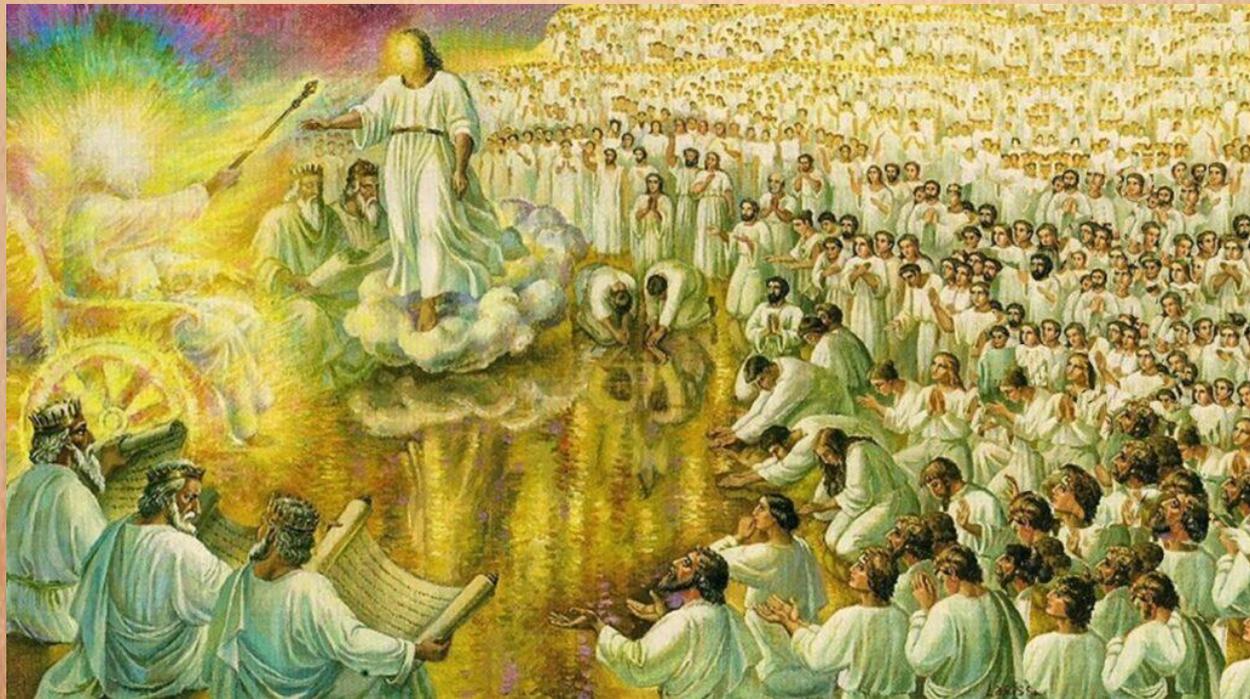
Judges is the book of “no king” –
2 Samuel = God's King. (David).

The gospels are books of the *second David*, the real chosen one (Messiah coming the first time)!

God's story isn't finished yet

What is the last installment of God's work?

The victory of the saints in the book of Revelation and prophecy of the second coming!



17 WHERE YOU DIE I WILL DIE, AND THERE I WILL BE BURIED. MAY THE LORD DEAL WITH ME, BE I



THE
Story OF *Ruth*
RUTH 1:1-18

THE
Story OF Ruth
RUTH 1:1-18

• WHY?

- **Love story!** Joyful ending! Literary masterpiece.
- **Romance of Redemption!**
 - Begins with tragic *funerals* – ends with *joyful wedding!*
 - Begins with terrible famine – ends with fullness.
 - Goes from *bitterness to sweetness!*
 - Shows how faith & loyalty to God = **joy and blessing!**
- Only woman = “*worthy woman*” (Ruth 3:11).

THE
Story OF Ruth
RUTH 1:1-18

- **WHEN DOES IT TAKE PLACE?**
 - Fascinating history. (Judges)

THE
Story OF Ruth
RUTH 1:1-18

- **Period of the Judges.**
 - Judges 21:25 -- *“In those days there was no king in Israel.”*
 - Elimelech’s name:
 - “God is my King!”
 - **God is a God of *individuals*.**

THE
Story OF Ruth
RUTH 1:1-18

- **ANOTHER REASON WHY?**
 - Critical element in **Messianic line**.
 - What is the significance of Obed?
 - Obed is the father of Jesse, who is the father of David (Ruth 4:17).

THE
Story OF Ruth
RUTH 1:1-18

- Two books named after women.
- Five women = Genealogy of Jesus.
 - Tamar
 - Rahab – mother of whom?
 - Bathsheba
 - Ruth
 - Mary

THE
Story OF Ruth
RUTH 1:1-18

- **WHY? Prophetic Types**
 - Hos 12:10 “I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used **similitudes**, by the ministry of the prophets. KJV
 - Models, Types, ***Foreshadowing!***
 - Boaz is a type of Christ!

Names in Ruth

- Boaz – “In Him is my strength.”
- Ruth – “Beauty or Desirable.”
- Elimelech – “God is my King.”
- Naomi – “Pleasant” Mara – “Bitter.”
- Orpah – “Fawn”

What does Oprah Winfrey have to do with Ruth?

- She was supposed to be "Orpah" Winfrey, named for the Biblical Ruth's sister-in-law, but the name was spelled wrong on her birth certificate, and soon everyone was calling her Oprah.



Names in Ruth

- Bethlehem = “House of Bread”



BETHLEHEM 65

MOAB
★ Kir-hareseth

17 WHERE YOU DIE

RD DEAL WITH ME, BE I

THE
Story OF Ruth
RUTH 1:1-18

- Thought questions for next week:
 - How does the **Kinsman-Redeemer Law** (Lev 25:47-50) and the **law of Redemption** prove to be Messianic?
 - Examine the **five things Naomi tells Ruth** to do if she expects to win the heart of Boaz (Ruth 3:3-5)!

Law of Redemption Lev 25:47-50

THE Story OF Ruth

Original Land Grants

