The Book of Judges a 350-400 year Cycle of Sin, Oppression, Repentance, Deliverance, Rest, back to Sin SLIDE

WHY? The Last Scripture in the Book summarizes the cause of this cycle

- Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
- The Phrase: "There was no king in Israel" (4x) "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (2x)

They were in effect saying, "my throne, my rules"...LEFT TO OURSELVES THIS IS OUR TENDENCY

- Prov 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.
- Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

TRUTH IS: GOD IS KING, CAN WE ACCEPT IT? → Psa 47:7 ESV For God is the King of all the earth;...

• Self-Directed Life vs Christ Directed Life slide

JUDGES TAKES PLACE \to AFTER JOSHUA (Promised Land) \to BEFORE SAMUEL AND KINGS KNOWING THE LORD ENDED IN ONE GENERATION

Common Issue → Each generation wants to be king of their own life, "My throne, My rules"

Jdg 2:10-11 ESV And all that generation (Joshua's) also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.
 11 And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals.

Judges (CYCLES) was ending -while they recognized a need for a King, they rejected the true King

- 1Sa 8:4-8 ESV Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah 5 and said to him, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations." 6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD. 7 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.
 - God is the King and wants to be the King → The People reject God as king
 - God does not force his kingship upon us, but leaves us to our choice "obey the people"

There was a great move of God in the US our generation \rightarrow we don't want to lose it in the next

- ELI & HIS SONS 1 Sam 2:29 Why then do you scorn my sacrifices and my offerings that I commanded
 for my dwelling, and honor your sons above me by fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every
 offering of my people Israel?
- 1 Sam 3:13 And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and **he did not restrain them**.

Without discipline, the heart is left untouched...My Throne, My Rules, goal is Jesus as King

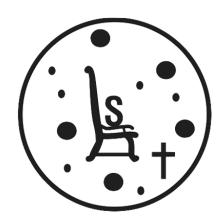
- Prov 29:15 The rod and reproof *give wisdom*, but a child **left to himself** brings shame to his mother.
- Pro 22:15 ESV Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

Mal 2:15 THE OUTCOME OF MARRIAGE $\dots \rightarrow$ And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring.

Luke 6:46 (ESV) — "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"

Where is His authority not welcome in my life — family, money, time, habits?

What would it look like if Jesus truly reigned as King in your home, your schedule, and your priorities? What steps can you take to replace self with Jesus on the throne of your heart (and your children?)



(Self-Directed Life)

Jesus is present in life, but 'self' remains on the throne—still in control of decisions and actions across the different areas of life (represented by the dots).

(Christ-Directed Life)

Jesus is on the throne, and the person is surrendered—yielding to His influence and direction in every area of life.

