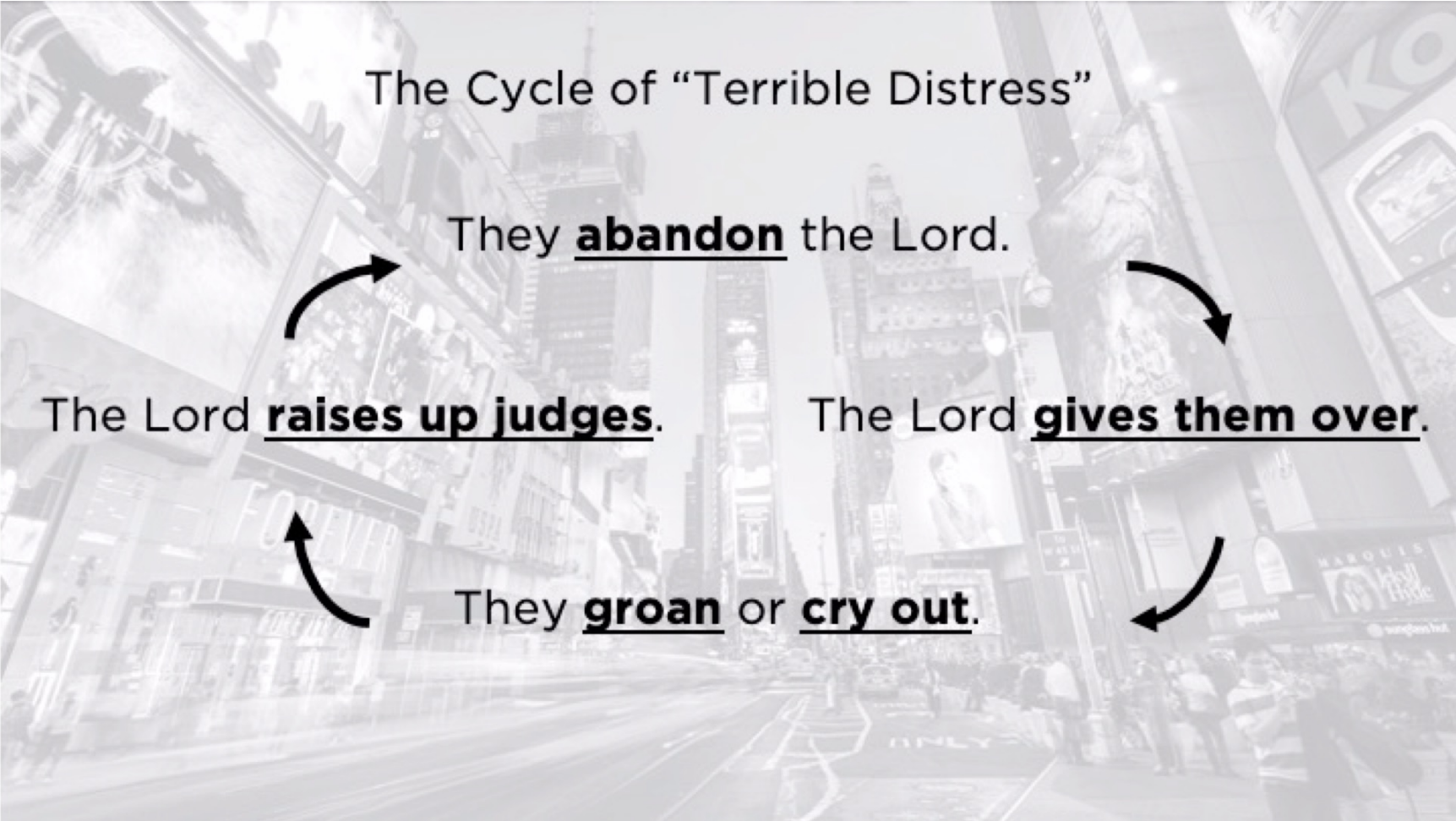




JUDGES

our deepest need





The Cycle of “Terrible Distress”

They **abandon** the Lord.

The Lord **raises up judges.**

The Lord **gives them over.**

They **groan** or **cry out.**

“In those days there was no king in Israel.
Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Judges 17:6

Judges 17-18 - worship disorder

Judges 17-18 - worship disorder

Judges 19-21 - moral disorder

“Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.”

Romans 1:24-25

“If God did not exist, everything would be permitted.”

Jean Paul Sartre

“What if He doesn’t exist? Then if He doesn’t exist, man is the chief of the earth, of the universe. Magnificent! Only how is he going to be good without God?

“That’s the question. I always come back to that. For whom is man going to love then? To whom will he be thankful? To whom will he sing the hymn?”

Fyodor Dostoevsky

“[T]he events of the story undermine Ivan’s words (because the character Smerdyakov justifies his murder of their father on the basis of Ivan’s philosophy).

“Ivan, in coming to terms with his indirect complicity in his own father’s murder, has a mental breakdown, while redemption in the end comes with Alyosha, through his simple love for others and faith in God.

“Thus the rejection of Ivan’s nihilism and despair seems to come not through argument but through the unfolding narrative.”

Gavin Ortlund

“In those days when there was no king in
Israel ...”

Judges 19:1a

1. family chaos (1-9)

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- Levite - “took to himself a concubine”

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- Concubine

1. **family** chaos (1-9)

- Levite - “took to himself a concubine”
- Concubine

“And his concubine was unfaithful to him, and she went away from him to her father’s house at Bethlehem in Judah, and was there some four months.”

Judges 19:2

1. **family** chaos (1-9)

- Levite - “took to himself a concubine”
- Concubine
- Father-in-law

1. family chaos (1-9)

2. **social** chaos (10-26)

“But the man would not spend the night. He rose up and departed and arrived opposite (that is, Jerusalem). He had with him a couple of saddled donkeys, and his concubine was with him.

“When they were near Jebus, the day was nearly over, and the servant said to his master, ‘Come now, let us turn aside to this city of the Jebusites and spend the night in it.’

“And his master said to him, ‘We will not turn aside into the city of foreigners, who do not belong to the people of Israel, but we will pass on to Gibeah.’”

Judges 19:10-12

“And they turned aside there, to go in and spend the night at Gibeah. And he went in and sat down in the open square of the city, for no one took them into his house to spend the night.”

Judges 19:15

“And the old man said, ‘Peace be to you; I will care for all your wants. Only, do not spend the night in the square.’”

Judges 19:20

“As they were making their hearts merry,
behold, the men of the city, worthless fellows,
surrounded the house, beating on the door.

“And they said to the old man, the master of the house, ‘Bring out the man who came into your house, that we may know him.’

“And the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, ‘No, my brothers, do not act so wickedly; since this man has come into my house, do not do this vile thing.’”

Judges 19:22-23

“Behold, here are my virgin daughter and his concubine. Let me bring them out now. Violate them and do with them what seems good to you, but against this man do not do this outrageous thing.”

Judges 19:24

“But the men would not listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and made her go out to them.

“And they knew her and abused her all night until the morning. And as the dawn began to break, they let her go. And as morning appeared, the woman came and fell down at the door of the man’s house where her master was, until it was light.”

Judges 19:25-26

1. family chaos (1-9)
2. social chaos (10-26)
3. **national** chaos (27-30)

“And her master rose up in the morning, and when he opened the doors of the house and went out to go on his way, behold, there was his concubine lying at the door of the house, with her hands on the threshold.

“He said to her, ‘Get up, let us be going.’ But there was no answer. Then he put her on the donkey, and the man rose up and went away to his home.

“And when he entered his house, he took a knife, and taking hold of his concubine he divided her, limb by limb, into twelve pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel.

“And all who saw it said, ‘Such a thing has never happened or been seen from the day that the people of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt until this day; consider it, take counsel, and speak.’”

Judges 19:27-30

“And all who saw it said, ‘Such a thing has never happened or been seen from the day that the people of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt until this day; **consider it, take counsel, and speak.**’”

Judges 19:27-30

“Although I believe that values are socially constructed rather than God-given ... I do not believe that gender inequality is any more defensible than racial inequality, despite repeated efforts to pass it off as culture-specific ‘custom’ rather than an instance of injustice.”

Mari Ruti

“Do not do this vile thing.” (23)

“Do not do this vile thing.” (23)

“Do not do this outrageous thing.” (24)

“Do not do this vile thing.” (23)

“Do not do this outrageous thing.” (24)

nebalah = **gross disorder**

- **sexual** distortion

- **sexual** distortion
 - rape - Genesis 34:7

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 - rape - Genesis 34:7
 - premarital sex - Deuteronomy 22:21

- **sexual** distortion
 - rape - Genesis 34:7
 - premarital sex - Deuteronomy 22:21
 - adultery - Jeremiah 29:23

“because they have done an **outrageous** thing in Israel, they have committed adultery with their neighbors’ wives, and they have spoken in my name lying words that I did not command them. I am the one who knows, and I am witness, declares the Lord.”

Jeremiah 29:23

- sexual distortion
- **verbal** distortion

- sexual distortion
- **verbal** distortion
 - folly

- sexual distortion
- verbal distortion
 - folly

“For the fool speaks **folly**, and his heart is busy with iniquity.”

Isaiah 32:6a

- sexual distortion
- verbal distortion
 - folly

“to practice ungodliness,
to utter error concerning the Lord,
to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied,
and to deprive the thirsty of drink.”

Isaiah 32:6b

- sexual distortion
- verbal distortion
 - folly
 - lies about God

- sexual distortion
- verbal distortion
 - folly
 - lies about God

“Every mouth speaks **folly.**”

Isaiah 9:17

- sexual distortion
- verbal distortion
- **intellectual** distortion

- sexual distortion
- verbal distortion
- intellectual distortion
 - foolishness - 1 Samuel 25:25

- sexual distortion
- verbal distortion
- intellectual distortion
- **financial** distortion

- sexual distortion
- verbal distortion
- intellectual distortion
- financial distortion
 - covetousness

- sexual distortion
- verbal distortion
- intellectual distortion
- financial distortion
 - coveteousness

“He has done an outrageous thing in Israel.”

Joshua 7:15b

“Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye?

“You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”

Matthew 7:3-5

“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.

“And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.”

1 Corinthians 5:1-2

“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

“And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-11