Theme: Christ is the fulfillment of the judges, the ones who God sent to deliver His people from bondage and to turn them to Him.

I.   Intro – The Mystery of Judges

A.   A lot of famous stories (Deborah, Gideon, Samson)

B.   A very confusing book! What is the point?

C.   Who were the judges?

D.   How do they relate to Christ?

II.   An Overview of Judges

A.   The background information: when, where, what

1.   When: between Joshua and Saul

2.   Where: throughout land of Israel

3.   What: judges are deliverers (16, 18)

B.   The recurring cycle (2:10-19)

1.   Apostasy arises (10-13)

2.   Lord hands them over to enemies (14-15)

3.   The people cry out in distress (15, 18)

4.   The Lord raises a judge/deliverer (16, 18)

5.   The judge dies and apostasy resumes (19)

C.   The downward spiral of judges

1.   Judges get worse as time moves on

2.   Examples: Othniel, to Gideon, to Samson

a.   Othniel – Caleb's son in law; Spirit; war

b.   Gideon - (8:27) – timid; war; sin, Abimelech

c.   Samson – no cry for deliverance; Samson immoral

i.   Cycle: cry, raise up, peace (3:9,11; 3:15, 30)

ii.   Samson: no cry (13:1-2), no peace (16:31)

iii.   Summary of Samson's problems (slide)

III.   What we learn from the Judges

A.   The judges were deliverers of God's people

1.   God's people need someone to deliver them

2.   God raised up judges to save His people

3.   God is faithful to save when we cry out!

B.   The problems: sin and death

1.   These judges had their own problem: sin!

2.   Even good judges died

3.   People returned to apostasy

4. We need a sinless, eternal Savior

IV.   Christ: Our Glorious Judge and Savior

A. Christ is a Judge raised by God to save His people

1. Lk 1:67-75 – salvation from enemies; restore holiness

2. Matt 1:21 – Y'shua, saves people from sin (2:16,18)

3. Rom 11:26 – deliverer comes; turns away godlessness

B. Christ is the Judge without sin!

1. This judge does not fall into sin!

2. Therefore He can save us from sin completely

C. Christ is the eternal Savior!

1. Christ does not die!

2. Christ ever lives to save us!

Christ and the Judges
Judges 2:10-19
March 14, 2004
Praise the Name of Jesus
Jude 24-25

And Caleb said, "I will give my daughter Acsah in marriage to the man who attacks and captures Kiriath Sepher." 13 Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it; so Caleb gave his daughter Acsah to him in marriage.   Judges 1:12-13

The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, so that he became Israel's judge and went to war. The LORD gave Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram into the hands of Othniel, who overpowered him.   Judges 3:10

- ✓ He is Caleb's son-in-law and relative – faithful Israelite (1:13)
- ✓ He is a bold warrior – not timid (1:13; 3:10)
- ✓ The Spirit of the Lord comes on Him (3:10)
- ✓ He leads Israel in victorious war – not treachery or deceit (3:10)

Gideon made the gold into an ephod, which he placed in Ophrah, his town. All Israel prostituted themselves by worshiping it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family.   Judges 8:27

- ✓ He is initially very timid rather than bold – needs multiple signs (Judges 6)
- ✓ He does become a bold warrior – not timid (Judges 7)
- ✓ He leads Israel in victorious war – not treachery or deceit (Judges 7)
- ✓ He leads Israel into sin in his own lifetime! (Judges 8:27)
- ✓ He prematurely tries to set up a dynasty - Abimelech (Judges 8-9)

But when they cried out to the LORD, he raised up for them a deliverer, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, who saved them. 10 The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, so that he became Israel's judge and went to war. The LORD gave Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram into the hands of Othniel, who overpowered him. 11 So the land had peace for forty years, until Othniel son of Kenaz died. Judges 3:9-11

Again the Israelites cried out to the LORD, and he gave them a deliverer-- Ehud, a left-handed man, the son of Gera the Benjamite. The Israelites sent him with tribute to Eglon king of Moab… 30 That day Moab was made subject to Israel, and the land had peace for eighty years.   Judges 3:15, 30

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, so the LORD delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. 2 A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was sterile and remained childless. Judges 13:1-2

Then his brothers and his father's whole family went down to get him. They brought him back and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had led Israel twenty years.   Judges 16:31

Summary of Samson's problems

- ✓ Israel is not crying our for deliverance – they accept slavery!
- ✓ Samson is moved by the Spirit – but ignores God's rules
- ✓ Samson is an immoral man – Delilah and prostitutes
- ✓ Samson often engages in personal vendetta
- ✓ Samson can only defeat the Philistines by killing himself

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us-- to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.   Luke 1:67-75

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.   Matthew 1:21

16 Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders….   18 Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies…. Judges 2:16, 18

26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. Romans 11:26