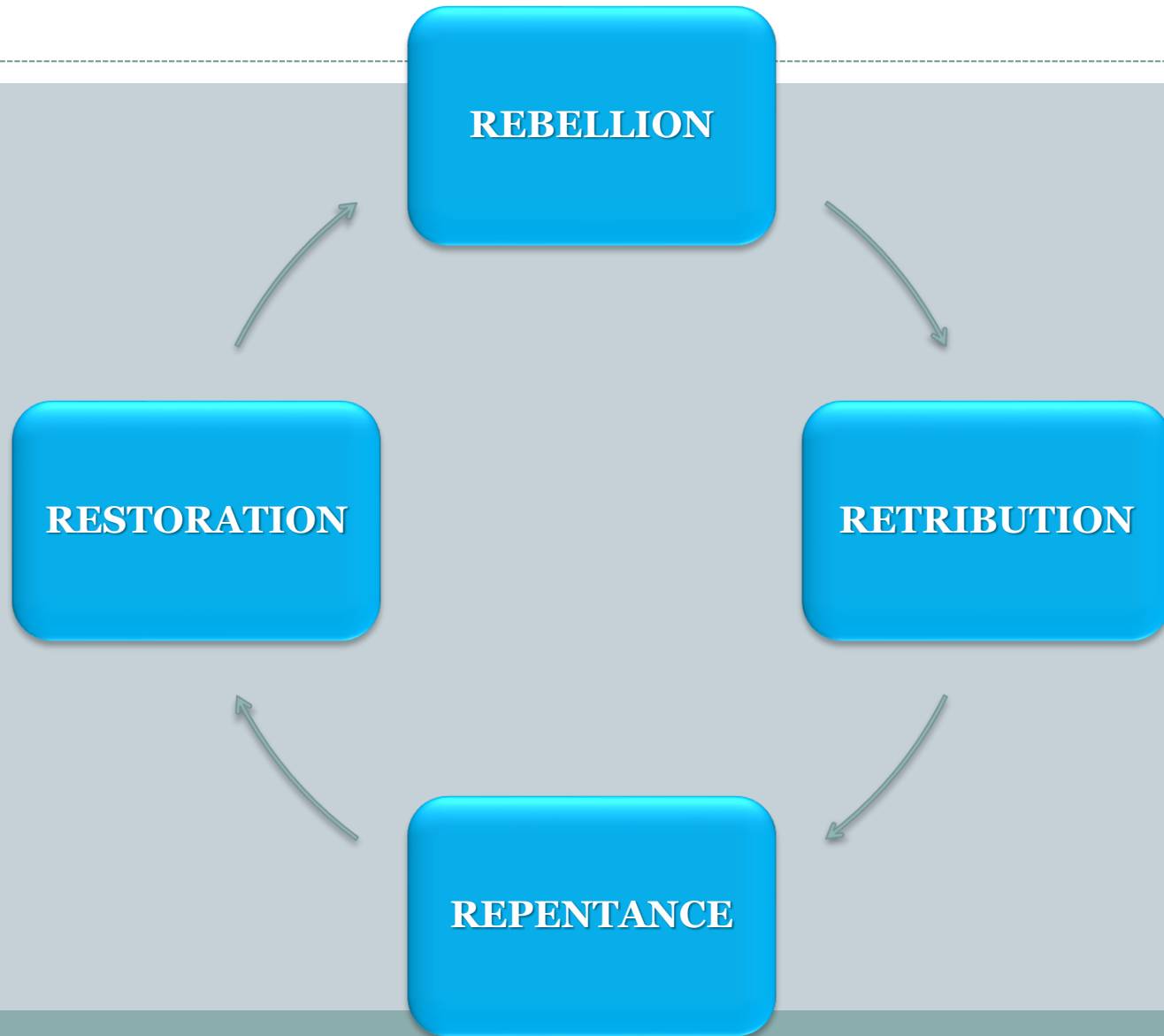


Judges



- **Jesus, our Deliverer-Judge!**
- **The folly of forsaking God**
- “...there was no king...”
- Last verse: “...every man did that which was right ...in his own eyes...” (21:25)
- Recurring phrase: “And the children of Israel did evil ...in the sight of the Lord...”
- Cycle: **Rebellion – Retribution** (*penalty*) – **Repentance – Restoration...**

Cycle...





- Sinning
- Suffering
- Supplication
- Salvation!

Outline



- Israel's **Wars** (1:1-2:5)
- Israel's **Woes** (2:6-16:31)
- Israel's **Ways** (17-21; Ruth)

Outline



Israel's **Wars** (1:1-2:5)

- Tribe of Judah
 - ✦ Promise of initial victory (1:1-18)
 - ✦ Peril of incomplete victory (1:19-21)
- House of Joseph
 - ✦ Promise of initial victory (1:22-26)
 - ✦ Peril of incomplete victory (1:27-2:5)

Israel's **Woes** (2:6-16:31)

- Subjection to different nations...

Israel's **Ways** (17-21; Ruth)

- Religious Perversion (17-18)
- Moral Pollution (19-21)
- Individual Conviction (Ruth)

General Lessons



- They started well (in Canaan), but **didn't finish well.**
- They **forsook the Lord** and **followed other gods.**
- They were **not steadfast** in their relationship with God.
- “**Doing my own thing**” always leads to disaster!
- Man's **natural trend** is not upwards, but downwards... ☹️

General Lessons



- They **did NOT** drive out the enemy completely as God commanded!! (Ch 1)
- They **mixed** with the ungodly nations!!
- The **wickedness** of the human heart...
- God specializes in using the **weak things**, the “small”...
- The **Holy Spirit** came upon men and equipped and used them!
- God’s amazing **mercy**...(⇐ repentance)

General Lessons



- “The Lord did not drive them out at once... These are the nations the Lord left **to TEST** all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan (He did this only **to TEACH warfare** to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience)...” (2:23;3:1-2)

Prominent People



- **Gideon** (*warrior-judge*)
- **Samson**
- **Eli** (*priest-judge*)
- **Samuel** (*prophet-judge*)
- **Deborah**
- + 9 others of the 14 judges...
- **Ruth**

