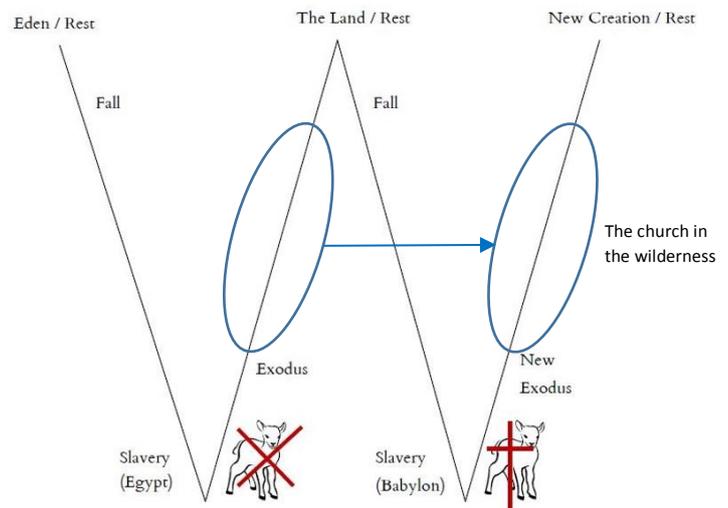


# Wilderness wanderings, entering the Promised Land, and the time of the Judges

## The wilderness generations (Exodus 14 – Deuteronomy 34)

Some NT keys that help us to see the wilderness time as a pattern for us as a church now

- Hebrews 3:7-4:11
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-11
- Revelation 11-12
- Acts 7:38



Exodus – God delivers (1-18), God decrees (19-23), God dwells (24-40)

Leviticus – at Sinai – how to live with a holy God in your midst

Numbers – story of two generations, census x 2

Deuteronomy:

- the Law for the generation entering the land
- you are a rebellious people
- you are going to conquer the land not because you are righteous but as instruments of God's judgment on the sin of the people in the land (9:5)
- and if, once in the land, you forsake the Lord and worship the gods of the land and do what they did then you will be punished and thrown out of the land in the same way (8:19; 28:15-68)
- and in fact it is predicted that they will do exactly that (Deut 28:15-68; 31:16-29)

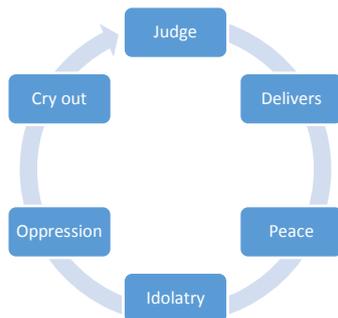
## Entering the land (Joshua)

- Conquest of the Land (Joshua 1-12)
- Possession of the Land (Joshua 13-24)
- Joshua = Yeshua
- Entering Jordan – cf. Exodus 14 and cf. beginning of Jesus' ministry (baptism in Jordan)
- Rahab – Woman, Gentile, Prostitute – enters the kingdom of God

- Destruction of Jericho – God fights for us (Joshua 1:2; 5:14; 23:3); the gates (defences) of hell shall not prevail against (Matt. 16:18)<sup>1</sup>
- But Joshua ends on a worrying note:
  - o They have not completely occupied the land (e.g. 17:12)
  - o And more importantly the people are not going to be able to keep the Law (24:19)

## The period of the Judges

- Judge = Deliverer/Saviour (Judges 2:16)
- Notice the cycle (Judges 2:16-20)



- 12 Judges – one from each tribe – the cycle spirals down
- By the time you get to Samson you have a people who don't want to be delivered (15:9-13) and a judge who, like the people, is full of sin and fully Canaanised.
- Yet even with a bad judge like Samson you have hints and patterns of the great Deliverer to come (e.g. his birth narrative, bound by his people and handed over to the Gentiles, the greatest victory in his death)
- Judges 1-16 --- the cycles of the judges
- Judges 17-21 --- the state of the nation<sup>2</sup>
  - o 17-18 --- religious chaos – idolatry, priests for hire, power wins
  - o 19 --- moral chaos – Israel is as bad as the Canaanites (Gen. 19) who were ejected from the land
  - o 20-21 --- civil war
- Big point of the book – *In those days there was no king* (17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25)
- Book of Ruth – in the time of the Judges
  - o Minor point – It is possible to live faithfully in a terrible time
  - o Big point – God preparing, in Bethlehem, for King David.

<sup>1</sup> There are some parallels between book of Acts and book of Joshua – e.g. Joshua 7//Acts 5:1-11. As Joshua is the record of God fighting for his people so Acts is the record of Jesus' continuing mighty works. The geographical spread of the Word/Church in Acts (accompanied by signs and wonders in the early part of each book) is similar to the conquest of Canaan. However, remember the now-and-not-yet. There are only partial parallels between this age and Joshua. In many ways we are more like the wilderness generation who are not yet in the Promised Land.

<sup>2</sup> This is parallel with chapters 1-16. Another way of telling the story. Chapters 1-16 is like a history of a country focussing on the presidents while chapters 17-21 is a history of the country talking about the people, their cultures, the social movements.