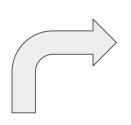
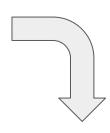
The Spirit of the LORD In the book of Judges

'Ruach Yahweh' acting through 'spirit-empowered people' to save God's people from their oppressors

The Shape of the Story - a recurring cycle



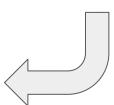
The People of God worship other gods



The deliverer saves them by God's power. [The stories of the Judges]



The people cry out to God and God raises up a deliverer God allows their enemies to oppress them



Othniel (Judges 3:7-11)

The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord; they forgot the Lord their God and worshiped false gods.

The anger of the Lord burned against Israel so that he sold them into the hands of their enemy.

But when they cried out to the Lord, he raised up for them a deliverer.

"The Spirit of the LORD came (lit: was) upon him" (Judges 3:10 cf 11:29 for Jephthah)

Result: Power for military victory over Israel's enemies

God is at work through the 'judge' (shophet) to set God's people free.

Gideon (Judges 6-8)

Gldeon fearful





Turning point: "Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon" (Jud 6:34) Literally: "put on / wore". (The Spirit clothed itself with Gideon!!)



Gideon has the courage to take on the Midianite enemy, the charisma to draw together a small army, and the cunning and wit to devise a clever plan.



Result: The oppressor is defeated and God's people are set free.

Samson (Judges 13-16)





SAMSON AND DELICAN

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(Adopt to 16.27) (19/11)



DEATH OF SAMSON

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[10 - O-Special 20]

Judges 13 - Annunciation

"The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the Lord blessed him, and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol." (Judges 13:24)

Judges 14 - Samson's Marriage to a Philistine

"His parents did not know that this was from the Lord, who was seeking an occasion to confront the Philistines, for at that time they were ruling over Israel." (Judges 14:4)

Attacked by lion ... "The Spirit of the Lord rushed on him and he tore the lion apart with his bare hands" (Judges 14:6)

Tricked in the riddle contest "Then the spirit of the Lord rushed on him, and he went down to Ashkelon. He killed thirty men of the town, took their spoil, and gave the festal garments to those who had explained the riddle. In hot anger he went back to his father's house."

[Other versions: rushed on him = "came upon him in power" (NIV) or "came upon him mightily" (NASB)]]

Chapter 15 Samson takes personal revenge on Philistines

When the Israelites bind him to hand him over to the Philistines "

When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him; and the spirit of the Lord rushed on him, and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands." (Judges 15:14)

Then he massacres them with the jawbone of a donkey.

Chapter 17: Samson and Delilah

After his hair has been cut off "But he did not know that the Lord had left him. Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved."

(Judges 17:21)

In Philistine temple, prays for return of strength "Then he pushed with all his might and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed more when he died than while he lived." (Judges 16:30)