

# RIGHT IN THE EYE

## Stranger Than Fiction

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*Note: The following content is a raw transcript and has not been edited for grammar, punctuation, or word usage.*

Well, it's good to see everybody and those of you who are joining us online and joining us on television, all of our Atlanta area campuses, really literally people from all around the world. We're gonna begin this brand new series with what is perhaps the most outrageous story in all of ancient history. It is certainly the most outrageous story found in the Bible, it is found in the Old Testament. And it's a little bit long, and it's a little bit complicated. So, if you get lost or you get about halfway through this story and go, "Now what?" You can go to [rightintheeye.org](http://rightintheeye.org) beginning tomorrow and you can see this message as many times as you want. Now, what's gonna happen, about halfway through this message, some of you are gonna go, "You know what, my husband really needed to be here for this." So you can send him to [rightintheeye.org](http://rightintheeye.org) or your kids or your neighbor or maybe your whole homeowner's association needs to hear this message. Who knows? Or everybody at work. So, this whole series will be right there the whole time that we're doing this series.

00:52 AS: Now, most of the series comes out of the Old Testament Book of Judges, and the Book of Judges is a narrative of a part of ancient Israel's history that took place actually between the time they moved into the Promised Land under Joshua. You remember, Moses took them out of Egypt, then Moses dies. Joshua takes them into the Promised Land, they get settled, then Joshua dies. And then, about 330 years later, Israel becomes a monarchy with King David or King Solomon, King David. So, this period of judges, if you read the Old Testament, Book of Judges, it takes place during this time between the time that Joshua died, they're in the land and the time that they became a monarchy. And during this time they were like a commonwealth. They were like the 13 original colonies without a central government.

01:36 AS: They had common ancestry, common religion, common language, a lot of things in common but they were 12 distinct tribes. And the reason they were 12 distinct tribes if you know anything about Bible history, there was Abraham who had a son named Isaac who had a son named Jacob. And Jacob had 12, what? Sons, right. And each one of those sons grew up to be basically their own little tribe or their own little nation. So, during the Book of Judges you have these 12 tribes inhabiting the Promised Land, and there's no king because they're supposed to view God as their king. And the way it was supposed to work is God is king, he's given them his law, and they're supposed to obey the law. And then God would raise up these judges, that's why the book is called Judges, and these judges would essentially rule but they weren't kings. Their only authority was to distribute the law to make sure the law was kept and in some cases to deliver the nation of Israel from their enemies. Because here's what happened.

02:29 AS: The nation just abandoned God's law because the nation of Israel during this period had something in common with you, they didn't like to be told what to do. Nobody likes to be told what to do. And besides, it was this law, it was written somewhere and it was far away, and there was no king, and there was no real government. So, basically everybody did whatever they wanted to do.