

Judges-The Path from Chaos to Kingship

Lesson 1

Welcome to the study of Judges. We are excited to see what we will learn and how the Lord will lead us this winter into spring in this study.

Ice Breaker: How much do you know about your parents or grandparents and their lives? Does anything really stick out to you by their lives? How much do your children or nieces/nephew know about your early years? What would you like them to know?

January 15th- This lesson will include a bit of a review of the book of Joshua.

1. Read through the introduction chapter of the book together. A key thing to remember about Judges is it is **not** in chronological order. (see handout on the events of Judges by time and by chapter). It is not fully known who the author of Judges is but many believe it is Samuel. Also, pay attention to the themes on pages 16-17.

There is a map on page 16 but there is also a colored map included in the folder.

2. Take out the timeline included in the folder. Joshua served the people about 25-30 years but the actual fighting was done in about 7 years.

Please read Joshua 23-24- anything you notice or want to discuss?

3. Chapter 1- Read pages 19-20 together. Israel was to be God's instrument of judgment. These people were very wicked- see Deut.18:9-14.

4. Page 21- any thoughts on the 12 tribes and their mothers? Discuss Gen. 49:8-12.

5. Page 23- Judges 1:10-15- is a **flashback to Joshua 15:13-19**....watch out for a few of these as we go along.

6. Page 25- They "looked" successful and seemed to be in control of the situation. They even appeared to be "good" guys. But what had God said and not their interpretation of it.? Who were they trying to please? Do we pick and choose how we will serve and obey God?

7. Page 26- John MacArthur says whenever we see "the angel of the Lord", it is Christ.

See Exodus 23:31-33, Gen. 17:1-18. How often do we settle for "that is good enough" ? Are we faithful in all we do or just what we choose to do?

Lots of weeping going on... true repentance??? If they had truly repented, what they have done? Godly sorrow results from a heart-felt conviction that we have offended God by our sin. Such a burning conviction produces in our hearts a godly sorrow. As we look upon Him who was pierced for our sins, we are deeply grieved in spirit. And we resolve within our hearts that we will, with the help of God, "cease to do evil, and learn to do good" (Isaiah 1:16). Got questions

Judges 2:6-10 – another overview of the past here.

Judges 2:10- a very very sad verse. They knew ABOUT God but they did not acknowledge or truly know Him. This is a real prayer for us for our children. Remember there was no written word but it was teaching by family and others Deut 6. We will discuss this at the end of the chapter

8. Page 27- Read verses 11-12 carefully... What does it mean to "abandon something? What did God do!!! Chapter two in the book will talk more about just who these horrible gods were.

9. Page 28- Look carefully at verses 22-23... What did God do??? Read Lev. 26: 11;16 (but also :40-45) He is a jealous God...Exodus 20:3-5. They were His people.

10. Page 29- He is disciplining, testing them. He offers them a way back time and time again. See Hebrews 12:5-11.

Let's talk: This is a wonderful time to discuss what are doing to make sure the next generation knows the Lord.

- a. What can we do and what are we doing in our homes?
- b. We don't just teach them what is wrong with the world but what is the better true way. How do we do that?
- c. How do we keep from smothering our children and wrapping them in "bubble wrap" thinking that will protect them their whole life?
- d. How aware are we to be on what is happening in our culture and around the world?
- e. How do we prepare ourselves? How do we prepare our loved ones? Do we keep them away from all the evil or can we show them a better way in Christ?

Let's read the passages from 2 Timothy in your folder. Paul is getting ready to die and he shares with Timothy these last thoughts and what he has taught him. God's Word is so sweet.

This was a prayer of Charles Spurgeon prayed for his offspring, for his descendants yet unborn. He was praying for future generations.

O Lord, Thou hast made a covenant with me, Thy servant, in Christ Jesus my Lord; and now, I beseech Thee, let my children be included in its gracious provisions. Permit me to believe this promise as made to me as well as to Abraham. I know that my children are born in sin and shapen in iniquity, even as those of other men; therefore, I ask nothing on the ground of their birth, for well I know that "that which is born of the flesh is flesh" and nothing more. Lord, make them to be born under Thy covenant of grace by Thy Holy Spirit! I pray for my descendants throughout all generations. Be Thou their God as Thou art mine. My highest honor is that Thou hast permitted me to serve Thee; may my offspring serve Thee in all years to come. O God of Abraham, be the God of his Isaac! O God of Hannah, accept her Samuel!

Years have passed. Decades. More than a century. But there, in London, those words were read by Spurgeon's great-great-granddaughter—the living embodiment of God's answer to those prayers from the 1800s. She's a faithful believer whose family loves God and cherishes his Word.

Sooo powerful!!! [Steve Green's "Find Us Faithful."](#) (youtube) The lyrics paint a picture of those who have gone before us, the cloud of witnesses surrounding us as we run the race, cheering us on. The chorus then imagines the moment we'll be in that cloud and the legacy we'll leave for those who run the race in the future.

*O may all who come behind us find us faithful, May the fire of our devotion light their way.
May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe, And the lives we live inspire them to obey.*

Article by Trevin Wax

Page 30- Let's save this for the next lesson. How do we live in this world today? What is the difference between loving our neighbors and being "tolerant" and allowing sin to penetrate our lives and our family's lives. There are scripture references, but think practically for yourself and your family. We will share this next time.