

Judges- The Path from Chaos to Kingship Lesson 2

Ice-breaker: Is there anyone that you wanted to be like when you were young- real or not real? Or did you ever say: "if only I could do or be or have..." life would be different?

Page 30- Spend time looking up the verses given here. How do you safeguard yourself and those around you? How do you appear to be different to the world around us? Do they see a difference?

We complain about the evilness of the world but we must not be prideful in our dealing with the lost around us. Jerry Bridges : " How can we guard against this sin of self-righteousness? First, by seeking an attitude of humility. If we're morally upright, it's only because God's grace on prevailed in us. (Psalm 51:5).

Can we hate the sin but love the sinner? Jesus is our example: Mark 2:13-17, Matt. 9:10-17, Luke 5:29-39.

As an individual, as a family, as a church- what do we do to be in the world but not OF the world?

Week 2 lesson

Let's look at the chart on page 32- compare the years of oppression to years of rest for the judges mentioned (some overlapping judges and in different parts of Israel- not the whole) but about the time of the Judges was 300 years or so...

page 33- Othniel was the brother of Caleb (Judges 1:13) and Caleb and Othniel were not Israelites but were followers of Yahweh. (Numbers 14:6-9) He knew war and how to fight.

Page 33- We really see how the disobedience of the Israelites to God's strong command to do away with the Canaanites led to years/centuries of suffering and trials. When they "cried out", let's think again about just how sorrowful they really were. Think of those in a scary situation and plead with God to help them and even promise to follow God if they get through this- how sincere is that cry. We pray for true repentance for our loved ones and ourselves.

Warren Wiersbe: The "good bad news" is that God is angry. He is a jealous God and wants His people for Himself. He does not allow the Israelites to continue in this horrible idol worship. He pursues them by selling them to the different rulers. Yahweh brings them low and then brings them back. It is truly the kindness and grace of God to people. . Psalm 90:11 Who can comprehend the power of your anger? Your wrath is as awesome as the fear you deserve. Then God gives them rest. Imagine how that would feel after being enslaved and living under a tyrant rule. What did God say would happen? Deut. 28:15-63.

My question is where were the priests and Levites during this time. There was the tabernacle in Shiloh. But where was the spiritual leadership? This will come up later in the study but we can see what happens when spiritual leaders are not fulfilling their God given roles. There was no written word at this time. The law was passed by word of mouth.

Page 33-35- The Canaanite gods were horrid. It was about baby and child sacrifice and temple prostitution. What were these Israelites thinking? What do you think drew them to "worship" this way. (The statistics of Pornography viewing by Christians is shocking... something we need to pray fervently against for our churches and the world)

Page 36- this question is **continued on page 40**- see the handout on HS in the OT. J.Mac-It was a unique act of God that gave power and wisdom for victory but did not guarantee that the will of God would be done absolutely in all details.

Page 36-38- couple of notes: the meaning of Benjamin-is "the son of my right hand"- ironic, being only left -handed would have been a bit of a disability, escaping through a porch (ESV) is also translated latrine.

Interesting information on Moab. The daughters of Lot were raised in Sodom so we can imagine their mind-set and view of the world to even do this incestuous act. (Ivill)

Page 39- www.gotquestions.org/idol-worship - excellent article on why Christians have idols and what are they