

Book of Judges Introduction and Chapter 1

Introduction

- The Book of Judges is a book of no kings.
- 1 Samuel was King Saul – man's king.
- 2 Samuel was King David – God's king.
- Jesus came as the King of the Jews – was rejected (we have no king but Caesar)
- The Antichrist will come as the world's king.
- Jesus will return as the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

Moses delivers Israel from Egypt through the exodus story.

- God's power and the ten plagues
- The parting of the Red Sea
- The Ten Commandments
- The giving of the Law
- The Levitical Priesthood
- The building of the Tabernacle

40 years later Joshua leads Israel into the promised land.

- The Battle of Jericho
- In 7 years, Joshua defeats thirty-one kings.
- Joshua divides the land among the tribes.
- Israel has possession of the land.
- Joshua dies and there is no successor in leadership.
- They have God as their ruler through the covenant.

The tribes are in the land yet failed on three levels.

1. They did not eradicate their enemies from the land.
2. They did not obey the law of Moses and keep the covenant.
3. They did not teach the next generation the ways of God.

The Book of Judges is the story of a people who

- Have no king – God was to rule over them through the covenant.
- They do what is right in their own eyes.
- They cannot work well together – civil war at times.
- They are contaminated by the pagan culture around them.
- They are in bondage and servitude to the other nations as judgment from God.

Duet 6:4-19

- Love God
- Teach your children.
- Recognize the source of all your blessings.
- Do not follow other gods.

Duet 7: 1-6

- Utterly destroy the nations in the land
- Do not intermarry.
- Destroy all their altars and sacred places and burn them with fire.

Duet 8: 11 – 20 – Very Stern Warning and Reminder

- Do not forget His commandments and keep them.
- Do not forget His mighty deliverance and mighty acts.
- Do not think any of this is a result of your own abilities or efforts.
- If you forget your will surely perish.

Duet 17: 1-20 About Kings

- Must be from your own countrymen, not an outsider.
- The king must not accumulate horses.
- The king must not look to Egypt for help.
- The king must not multiply wives.
- The king must not multiply and accumulate wealth.
- The king must write his own copy of the law of Moses.
- The king must read his copy of the law all the days of his life.

1 Samuel 8: 5 – 19

- The people ask Samuel to appoint a king over them like the other nations.
- Samuel warns against it telling them.
 - Enlist your sons for military purposes.
 - Enlist your daughters to serve domestically.
 - He will take your best fields, vineyards, and olive orchards as gifts to others.
 - He will tax you a tenth of your wealth.
 - He will take what he needs for his building projects (man and beast).
 - You will be disappointed, but God will not hear your cries.

Joshua 24: 15- 28

1. We will serve the Lord – vs 16.
2. We will serve the Lord – vs 21.
3. We will serve the Lord – vs 24.

Israel's failure resulted in moral, spiritual and political darkness, and depravity.

Judges Chapter One

VS 1-10 Jerusalem is captured.

- Judah and Simeon defeat the Canaanites and Perizzites.
- Capture and burn Jerusalem.
- Capture and kill King Adoni-Bezek (cut off his thumbs and big toes).

VS 11 – 26 Other cities captured and conquered.

- Othniel gets Caleb's daughter for his victory.
- The upper and lower springs are given by Caleb to his daughter.
- Caleb received Hebron as Moses had promised.
- The son of Anuk is driven out.

VS 21 – 36 Failure to dispossess the land from their enemies.

- Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites.
- Manasseh did drive out the Canaanites in their land.
- Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites.
- Zebulun did not drive out the Canaanites.
- Asher did not drive out the Canaanites.
- Naphtali did not drive out the Canaanites.
- Dan did not conquer the Amorites.

Israel did not do as God commanded. Their failure indicates they were already in some measure of disobedience for God had promised that "no one could stand before Israel" (Duet 11:25).

The Book of Judges will show graphically what life is like without listening to and obeying God's law and commandments.