

Judges Chapter 6 and 7:1-15

Review

Downward progression: Apathy to Apostasy to Anarchy

- Apathy – they did not obey the covenant and did not teach their children the covenant
- Apostasy – the “fell away” and intermingled with the culture through marriage and pagan worship
- Anarchy – they did what was right in their own eyes

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

1. They did not eradicate their enemies from the land. (Duet 7)
2. They did not obey the law of Moses and kept the covenant. (Duet 6 and 8)
3. They did not teach the next generation the ways of God. (Duet 6)

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 could not 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.

Avoid this Progression!

- Friendship with the world – James 3:4
- Spotted by the world – James 1:27
- Love the world – 1 John 2:17
- Conformed to this world – Rom 2:2
- Condemned with the world – 1 Cor 11:13

Judges we have looked at so far:

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|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| • Othniel | Victory over King of Mesopotamia | 40 years peace |
| • Ehud | Defeats Moab | 80 years peace |
| • Shamgar | Defeats Philistines | No record. |
| • Deborah and Barak | Defeats Canaanites | 40 years peace |

Judges Chapter 6

VS 1 – 6

- Again, Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord.
- They did not learn from the past mistakes.
- Unless our suffering leads to “repentance” (true change of heart). It is only remorse.
- Israel hiding in dens and caves.

- Midianites are a coalition of nations.
- They came at harvest time to steal all the food.
- 135,000 gathered against Israel.
- Israel cries unto the Lord.

VS 7 – 16

- The Lord sends a prophet.
- God always reminds them of the Exodus and deliverance from Egypt.
- God also points out their disobedience which is the cause of their situation.
- The angel of the Lord appears to Gideon hiding in the winepress.
- Mighty man of valor (how God see's him; what he can become).
- Gideon explains his inadequacies to the Lord.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:26 – 29, God chooses the weak and lowly.
- God's response – I have sent you and I will defeat your enemies.

VS 17 – 24

- Gideons offering to the Lord.
- It is expensive.
- It is generous.
- It is sacrificial.
- It is accepted.
- Gideon believes he will die because he has seen the Lord.
- Gideon builds an altar for the Lord at that place.

Note:

1. Gideons family worshipped Baal.
2. To challenge the Midianites would be to defy his father.
3. Many of his tribe and the other tribes had reverted to paganism (idolatry)
4. God is asking an impossible task for Gideon to do in the natural.
5. With God “noting is impossible” (Matthew 19:26, Luke 1: 37)

VS 25 – 32

- Destroy the altar of Baal.
- Cut down the Asherah pole in the grove.
- Sacrifice a bull on the stone.
- Gideon went at night with ten servants and did what the Lord commanded.
- Gideon is discovered.
- Joash defends his son and confronts the men of the city.

VS 33 – 40

- Gideon amasses an army of 32,00.
- Gideons fleece – Colossians 3:15

Judges Chapter 7: 1-15

VS 1 - 9

- Gideon's army is reduced to 10,000.
- Gideon's army is reduced to 300.
- Why? – so only God can get the glory, not a man.
- God tells Gideon he is now ready, so go and I will deliver them into your hands.

VS 10 – 15

- God allows a final confirmation for Gideon.
 - The angel of the Lord
 - The fleece
 - The dream and its interpretation
- Gideon and Phurah overhear the guards talking.
- Gideon is now convinced and ready to go.