

The Book of Judges: Chapters 2 and 3

Review

The Book of Judges is the story of a person 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 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.

In Chapter 1 we saw:

- Israel Fighting their Enemies.
 - Judah had numerous victories (1: 1-20)
 - Bezek
 - Jerusalem
 - Hebron
 - Debir
 - Hormah
 - Gaza, Ashkelon, Ekron
 - Joseph had victory in Bethel.
- Sparing their Enemies
 - Benjamine
 - Ephraim
 - Manasse
 - Zebulen
 - Asher
 - Naphtali
 - Dan
- Neglecting the Covenant (Word of God)

In Chapter 2 we will see Israel

1. Imitating the Enemy (2:1-13)
2. Obeying the Enemy (2: 6-23)

Chapter Two

VS 1 - 3

- An Angel of the Lord – Theophany. An OT reference to Jesus before His incarnation.
- Why have you not destroyed your enemies and torn down their altars?
- Now your enemies will not be driven out before you.
- They will be a thorn in your flesh and their gods a snare to you.

Note: The sin in our lives we fail to conquer will eventually conquer us.

VS 4-10

- Joshua dies and is buried.
- The people are released to their inheritance.
- That generation passes away.
- The next generation “knew not” the Lord or the works He had done in Israel.

VS 11 – 15

- Serial disobedience
- Worshipped Baal and Ashtaroth
 - Who is Baal?
 - God of rain, storms, and weather
 - God of life-giving power for crops and abundance from the earth
 - Depicted as a warrior with thunderbolt symbolizing is power over weather.
 - Worship through human and animal sacrifice.
 - Worship through sexual orgies (fertility) with the Ashtaroth (phallic symbol).
- Psalm 106: 34-42 – a summary of Judges Chapter two.
- Psalm 78:4-8 – Teaching your children and the next generation.

VS 16 – 23

- The introduction of Judges – there are 13 recorded (12 men and 1 woman).
- The Insidious Cycle: Apathy to Apostasy to Anarchy
 - Disobedience leads to bondage.
 - Bondage leads to repentance (they cried out to the Lord).
 - Judges are given to liberate the slaves.
 - The slaves are relieved and serve God.
 - The Judge dies and the slaves repeat the cycle.

Chapter Three

Note: Judges 3 – 16 chronicles 331 years of Israel History: 1434 BC to 1100 BC

VS 1 – 5

- Living among your enemies: Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.
- These nations were allowed to survive by the Lord to assess their obedience.
- The Israelites also learn war and how to fight.

VS 6 – 8

- Intermarriage and compromise

VS 9 – 11 Othniel and the King of Mesopotamia

- Victory was through the Spirit of the Lord upon Othniel
- The land had peace for 40 years.

VS 12 – 30 Ehud and Moab

- The land had peace for 80 years.

VS 31 Shamgar and the Philistines.

- He killed 600 Philistines with an Ox goad.
 - An eight-foot pole with a sharp metal point on one end and a spade for the other.
- Not in one day but over his time as Judge.