

God's Sends Judges

BIBLE BASIS: Lesson Scripture:

Judges 2:16-23

BIBLE TRUTH:

Sin promises freedom and pleasure, however, it really leads to bondage and suffering. James 1:12-13

MEMORY VERSE:

Nevertheless the Lord raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. Judges 2:16

Lesson Aim:

That each student will learn the dangers of sin and how compromising with sin can impact the next generation. Ps. 127:4-5, Prov. 22:6, Mal. 4:5-6 Judges 2:8-10

Introduction

- Judges picks up the story of Israel after the death of Joshua. This is a book of defeat and disgrace. It is a book of failure on the part of God people to trust His word and claim His promises. Joshua 1:3-5
- Why did the people of God fail to receive the promises? Judges 17:6
- The Lord was no longer their King. The people were mixing with the heathen nations; and it was necessary for God to chasten His people. We have a 300 year history of a cycle repeated over and over again; God blesses Israel, Israel becomes disobedience, God chastens Israel, Israel repents, God delivers Israel., Heb 12:5-12
- Gods people had been set apart by God for a witness. This required Gods people to separate themselves from sin, and die to self. Mat. 16:24
- This separation qualified Gods people to enter into their spiritual inheritance by faith. Eph. 1:3, 2Cor 6:16-7:1
- But after we have taken this first step of faith, it is easy to faint, or to compromise with the enemy. Israel entered into her land, but failed to possess the total inheritance. She first tolerated the enemy, then mixed with enemy, and finally surrendered to the enemy. Heb.12:1-3
- God raised up 13 different judges to defeat a particular enemy and give the people rest. It was only through these judges that Israel found victory. How easy for believers to settle down with sin and miss the blessings of complete dedication and complete victory. Jud. 2:11-15

God's Mercy Demonstrated

- [16] Nevertheless the Lord raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.
- These judges, in whom the miraculous operations of the Holy Spirit were manifested, were not chosen, by other men; nor like the dictators of Rome. They were sent forth by the Divine King of Israel. They were called by an inward inspiration, which was in several instances confirmed by outward miraculous signs. Mark 16:19-20
- They were raised up as the agents of the King; and their presence and their absence were used to keep alive in the nation a sense of dependence upon its invisible and merciful King. It was impossible for Israel to save herself from its enemies, they needed God. So it is with believer today that live lives compromised by sin. Rom. 7:14-25
- Israel had allowed themselves to be carry away into bondage to the heathen nations around them. Instead of enjoying the rest God had promised, the nation was in an out of slavery for hundreds of years, with only occasional periods of rest from the Lord.
- As believers we must come to understand that sin brings bondage and bondage enslaves men to sins master. This condition neutralizes the authority of the believer and cancels his benefit package. Ps. 68:18-20
- Without a proper knowledge of how we over come sin, we will live defeated lives. Rom 6:6-18

Gods People, A Stubborn People

- [17] And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the Lord; but they did not so..
- God reached out to Israel through the judges he would raise up among them. However, in spite of Gods effort to reach them they had become seduce by a spirit of rebellion and became dull of hearing the voice of God.
- A whore is a woman who engages in promiscuous sexual intercourse, usually for money. It was with this kind of moral abandonment that the people of God went after other gods and worshiped them.
- The Fathers of the faith had left Israel a legacy of obedience and moral commitment to God.
- God had called them to purpose. They were to represent and express him to the rest of the world. Gen. 1:26-28, Gen 12:1-3
- However, the generations that followed after the death of Joshua departed from the faith and lost their love for God and failed to represent and express him to the world.
- The church has been presented with this same purpose to represent and express God to the rest of the world. Matt. 5:13-15

God Never Leaves Himself Without A Witness

- [18] And when the Lord raised them up judges, then the Lord was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the Lord because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.
- When the judgment became so severe that the nation finally did cry out to God, He would send a deliverer; but note that God was with the judge personally, not with the nation collectively.
- Does the statement, “it repented the Lord,” mean the Lord changed his mind about something? No, God is Omniscient (all knowing), why would He decide something and then later repent of it? Why would He have to change His mind and do something different? He doesn't change. Ecc. 3:14, James 1:16-18
- What God is responding to is the change in the heart of his people. Although God knows the end from the beginning regarding His dealings with us. His ear is always open to our cry, and His love is ready to be poured out upon us. We are responsible and accountable for our disobedience and cannot blame him when our waywardness brings His chastisement upon us. When the people of God began to pray and cry out to God from the unbearable chastening rod of their enemies, God exercises his prerogative to have mercy on us. 2Chron. 7:13-14

God Chastening Or Condemnation

- [19] And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way. [20] And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice; [21] I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died:
- What we see in the times of judges is Israel violating the covenant God had establish with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Israel had corrupted themselves in following other Gods and worshiping them. Can or do Christians sin? How does God respond to the sins of his people? Does he forsake them or does he chasten them?
- They were full of themselves and rebelled continuously against God and his plan for them as a Nation of kings and Priest. As often as the people of God sin, it never brought condemnation. Rom 8:1-3
- What we see in this passage is the people of God brought down God's chastisements, and chastisement produced repentance. 1Cor. 11:30-32

Chastening Has A Purpose

- [22] That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the Lord to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not.
- [23] Therefore the Lord left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua.
- In conclusion, we seen the Lord left those nation without driving them out to be a pain and a chastening rod to his people. 2Sam 7:11-15
- This was Gods way of bring his back into a right relationship with him that they may enjoy fellowship with Him. 1John 1:8-9
- The Lord did not forsake them, however He permitted their enemies to oppress and torment them. Miserable and downtrodden, God raised up judges to deliver them from the hands of the enemy.
- God actually gave the enemy the power to bring his people into bondage because of their rebellion. What a lesson for us to learn today about the effects of sin and the impact sin has on our ability to receive the blessing of God the have been laid up for us from the foundation of the earth. Their were seven nations mightier than Israel they God had left for Israel to drive out. Due.7:1
- What have the Lord left in your life to conqueror and drive out by his spirit?

