

## **BIB 211 History of Israel I**

### **Lesson 3- Judges and the cycles of deliverance Judges 1-16**

Intro. Retrospect Judges 1-2:6 Transition 2:6-10 Prospect Judges 2:11-3:7 In retrospect the children of Israel did not claim their inheritance and drive out the inhabitants. (Judges 2:1-6 summarizes.) This was a sin of omission. In the transition there arose a generation which new not the Lord. In prospect, because the Israelites compromised with the nations they eventually end up going after other gods. This is a sin of commission. The one always follows the other, though it may take time. Therefore, God, as He promised, refuses to deliver the nations into their hands.

It is easy to miss the progression of sin as it relates to different generations. We are too often ignorant of history and are doomed to repeat it. Because of the failures of one generation to compromise and not separate from sin, and also to fail to train up their children, in one generation you can have a fully developed apostasy.

Judah came the closest to drive out the inhabitants as they were also the first in Joshua to claim their inheritance. A lesson in perseverance. How close they were, but wouldn't go after the chariots in the valley. They feared the newest weapons and failed to heed the admonition that "no weapon formed against thee shall prosper." Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people. Notice the downward cycle of sin 2:19.

The key to judges is the fourfold cycle that they follow seven times. Sin, servitude, supplication, and salvation. Rebellion, retribution, repentance, and restoration. The attack of the enemies comes from NE, E, NW, W, S, SE they were attacked from every side. The central theme: failure through compromise. The time period covered in the book of Judges is approximately 450 years.

1. First cycle (3:5-11)
  2. Enemy: Mesopotamia
  3. Judge: Othniel
  4. Lessons:
    1. Be not unequally yoked. 3:5-6
    2. Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord 3:10
  
5. Second cycle (3:12-30)
  6. Enemy: Moabites
  7. Judge: Ehud
  8. Lessons:
    1. Use the gifts God has given you; he was born left-handed (Benj)
    9. Saw opportunity and took it 3:15-16  
Loins girt about with truth - two-edged sword 16, message from God 20, remove the dirt 22
  
10. Third cycle (3:31-5:31)
  11. Enemy: Philistines/Canaanites
  12. Judge: Shamgar, Deborah, Barak
  13. Lessons:
    1. Use what you have - even an oxgoad
    14. The importance of courage and the impotence without it.

15. No male leadership.

16. Fourth cycle (6:1-8:32)

17. Enemy: Midianites

18. Judge: Gideon

19. Lessons:
1. Putting out the fleece not proper method, God not obligated
  20. Developing faith in the faithless Gideon His faith came in stages after victory, your faith should grow
  21. God proves His strength is made perfect in weakness
  22. Don't leave idols for your children

23. Fifth cycle (8:33-10:5)

24. Enemy: Abimilech the half child of Gideon

25. Judge: Tola, Jair

26. Lessons:
1. The danger of wanting a king to rule instead of God.
  27. The danger of ambition desire the preeminence
  28. No name judges do work as well.

29. Sixth cycle (10:6-12:15)

30. Enemy: Ammonites

31. Judge: Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

32. Lessons:
1. Rejected by men, chosen by God for leadership, delivered more than elite judges. God calls both. Peter, etc.
  33. Don't make foolish vows
  34. Dealing with Ephraimites complaint about being left out

7. Seventh cycle (13-16)

8. Enemy: Philistines

9. Judge: Samson

10. Lessons:
1. The dangers of being sidetracked by carnality, and not fulfilling the task.
  2. Separation of Nazarite Numbers 6 (source of power not just hair)
  3. Parents abdicating and indulging children

Conclusion

1. God uses a man to deliver his people; yet we see that they are just men with weaknesses.
2. How long suffering the Lord is with His people.
3. Don't make compromises with sin it will always lead to failure.
4. The bondage they were under from the Lord reveals the nature of chastening showing us the effect. We also follow the fourfold cycle in our lives.
5. The longer the bondage in years possibly based on the severity of the particular sin?