

IMMERSE: KINGDOMS

Week 5 – WHY Study the Book of Judges?

July 10, 2022

“NEVERTHELESS”!!!!!!

The book of Judges has been summarized as “The recycling of sin – resulting from the high cost of compromise.” “Why study the Book of Judges?” BECAUSE of the recycling of sin resulting from the high cost of compromise! It’s relevant today!

Judges covers approximately 265 years. Whereas Joshua, which covered 40 years, records victory and success, Judges documents Israel’s spiritual, national and social defeats and failures. Israel departed further and further from God.

WHY was their such spiritual decline?

In Joshua’s farewell address to the children of Israel, Joshua told the children of Israel that he had divided up the land of Canaan for them which included conquering 31 kings. As the land had been allotted to the tribes, the tribes would be responsible for eradicating the Canaanites from their tribal lands.

Keep this in mind – there was no King. The tribes of Israel operated as a kind of confederation, with each tribe seeking to maintain its sovereignty, so to speak. Before the period of the Judges, Israel was united under the strong central leadership of Moses and then Joshua.

God had ALREADY told Moses that He would raise up a Prophet like Moses to speak to the people HIS/GOD’s words (Deut. 18:15-18). God had ALREADY, through Jacob (father of the 12 tribes of Israel), designated the kingly tribe of JUDAH (Gen. 49:10 – *The scepter (a king’s staff/rod) shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver (one who rules) from between his feet,*

Until Shiloh (Messianic title – He Whose right it is) comes;

And to Him shall be the obedience of the people (who will bow down to this KING). But, we don’t yet read of an earthly King – yet! WHY?

The Book of Judges describes a decentralized period of Israel’s history.

Broadly speaking, in the book of Judges we read that the Israelites turned from the Lord. They disobeyed God and turned to the gods and practices of the Canaanites. God had warned them! To bring them back to Himself, God disciplined His people by allowing them to fall under the oppressive domination of their enemies.

When they eventually cried out to God for salvation, He graciously delivered them by raising up a Judge who was considered a Savior, a Deliverer.

As a result of God's deliverance, the Israelites rededicated themselves to Yahweh. This led to enjoying God's blessing once more – for a time. But after a time of blessing, the people again apostatized, and the cycle began anew.

The recycling of sin – resulting from the high cost of compromise!

The “Judges” are noted in the book as deliverers, saviors! Temporary deliverers. There were multiple “Judges”. THE ultimate JUDGE, THE DELIVERER, THE SAVIOR had

2

not yet come to dwell. The people were awaiting THE Savior! We see a Messianic theme in the very existence of the Judges. What HOPE!!!!

The temporary timeframe of each Judge sends the message that the provision of a KING would be the solution! BUT, the Israelites “did what was right in their own eyes.” They lived - NOT regarding God's WORD – NOT regarding what God had declared to be right. What Israel really needed was a godly king (God in the flesh) who would write His Law upon the hearts of His people.

JUDGES 1:1-2 - *Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, 'Who shall be first to go up for us against the Canaanites to fight against them?' ² And the LORD said, 'Judah shall go up. Indeed, I have delivered the land into his hand.'* Because there was no designated individual to lead in battle, Israel inquired of God! God designated Judah, which hardly comes as a surprise. (Gen. 49:8-10 – Israel's kings were from Judah's line. THE King would hail from the tribe of Judah!) God identified the tribe of Judah as the leader. In this time of the Judges, God not only designated the tribe of Judah as the leader, God also gave the Israelites the assurance that this military campaign would be successful, and it was. (Judges 1:4) BUT, we read of Judah's actions concerning the King Adoni-Bezek. Judah disregarded God's command and did not put the king to death immediately. Well, isn't that just a little compromise????????!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Some might say re: “In those days Israel had no king. Each man did what he considered to be right” – why is that such a big deal? (Judges 21:25) This is WHY we're studying the book of Judges! It is a HUGE DEAL!! Compromise!!!! Any compromise! Apostasy!! We CANNOT go there!

The Apostle Paul spoke of apostasy in the Church in the 1st C:

Acts 20:27-31 - *I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.*

The end times for Israel is the tribulation – the purging/refining of Israel. God is preparing Israel to meet her Messiah Jesus when He physically returns following the tribulation. We read of the remnant who are Jewish believers in God's promises re: the Messiah Jesus throughout the OT (Isa. 1:9; Isa. 6:13; Rom. 11:5).

Zech. 13:8-9 – 2/3rds of the Jewish people will die during the tribulation.

Zech. 12:10 – 1/3rd of the Jewish people will live. At the end of the tribulation, God will pour out His Spirit upon the 1/3 and they will come to faith in Jesus as their Messiah – as God!

3

AND SO – we are told...when Paul is speaking to the Church in Rome...Rom. 11:25-26 – *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in* (the work of the Church has been completed and we will be RAPTURED). ²⁶ *And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob*

When the Church Age is complete, God will pick up again with the Jewish people – whom He had chosen to be His witnesses originally.

God sealed the 144,000 Jewish male virgins (Rev. 7 & 14) at the beginning of the tribulation to function as God's servants – His witnesses. AND, the 2 witnesses in the tribulation are Jewish.

This is END TIMES for Israel/for the Jewish people.

What does END TIMES look like for the Church? APOSTASY – departing from the faith. After being rejected as their Messiah by the Jewish leadership, Jesus laid out in Matthew 13 what the world/the age - without Him on earth UNTIL His physical Second Coming. . Matthew 13 includes our present age

In Matt. 13...

...Jesus spoke in parables – a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them (v.4). The explanation to His disciples – (v. 19) - wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. The birds in the parable in Matt. 13 are agents of the wicked one – Satan.

In the parable of the sower, the seed sown on the good ground is limited. The good ground is limited in this present age! The good ground represents he who hears the

word and understands it produces fruit that is hundredfold, sixtyfold, and thirtyfold. Observe the decreasing amounts!

...Jesus spoke of the wheat (good seed) and the tares (NOT good seed). Tares are weeds appearing as good wheat. While men slept, the enemy sows the tares!

...Jesus spoke of the mustard seed growing into a tree making enough room for the birds of the air (agents of Satan [Matt. 13:4 birds devoured the seed on the wayside; Matt. 13:19 – birds symbolize the wicked one) wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside) to nest in its

branches! (Other saying of Jesus re: the mustard seed – if one has faith the size of a mustard seed [tiny], he can move mountains. NOT the same context!!!!)

...Jesus also told of the woman who hides leaven in 3 measures (pecks) of dough until it is all leavened! (Leaven represents sin in the Bible) Gal. 5:19 - *A little leaven leavens the whole lump* is a metaphor the apostle Paul uses to compare the effects of false teaching in the church to the results of yeast in bread dough (Galatians 5:9). Just as a small amount of yeast will make a whole loaf of bread rise, a little bit of false teaching will quickly spread, infiltrating the hearts and minds of individual believers until the entire Church is contaminated.

4

And so Jude wrote in his one chapter book that, while he had been very diligent (focusing on writing in HASTE) to write to his readership concerning “our common (in community; there’s ONE WAY of salvation – by God alone by Grace alone by Face alone in Jesus alone) salvation” - *I found it necessary* (due to the circumstances - dangerous practices and doctrines that put the gospel of Jesus in peril) *to write to you exhorting* (summoning you, calling you, admonishing you-urging you/warning you) *you to contend earnestly* (This was the great need that Jude interrupted his intended letter to address. The ancient Greek word translated “contend” comes from the athletic world – from the wrestling mat. It is a *strengthened* form of the word meaning “to agonize.” TO STRIVE – TO VIE FOR – TO AGONIZE FOR

The tense used for “contend earnestly” indicates that the struggle is continuous. We contend earnestly for the faith because it is valuable.

We contend earnestly for the faith when we share the Gospel with the unsaved.

We contend earnestly for the faith when we withhold support and encouragement from false teachers.

We contend earnestly for the faith when we live uncompromising lives as Jesus followers and give all the glory to God.

...for the faith which was once for all delivered (ENTRUSTED to us!!!) to the saints.

(The phrase “the faith” means “The essential truths of the gospel that all true believers hold in common.” “The faith” is used in this sense repeatedly in the New Testament.

ii. **Once** means that the faith was delivered one time. GOD HAS SPOKEN. We need to share HIS WORD WHICH IS TRUTH.) ⁴ *For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness.*

God inspired Jude to devote His book to APOSTASY in the Church.

II Tim. 3:1-5 - *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

WHY ARE WE STUDYING THE BOOK OF JUDGES? We need to understand that any compromise, any veering from God's word...leads to the recycling of sin!!!!

Joshua 5:13-15 – John meets the Commander of the army of the LORD.

Joshua 10:6-8 - *And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, “Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the mountains have gathered together against us.” ⁷ So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. ⁸ And the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you.”*

5

Where does Joshua come from – ready for battle? From Gilgal. And, Joshua shared with the Israelites all that God had said re: do not fear them, for I have delivered them into our hand....

Judges 2:1-6 - *Then the Angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: “I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you.(Who is speaking? Who led the children of Israel up from Egypt?)’ ² And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? (Do we hear Jesus speak to us in this way – to our hearts?)’ ³ Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.’ ” ⁴ So it was, when the Angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept. ⁵ Then they called the name of that place Bochim; and they sacrificed there to the LORD. ⁶ And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land.*

And so it was that the sons of Israel broke their covenant with God, but God kept His covenant by bringing upon them those things about which He had warned. Specifically, the Lord indicated that He would not drive out the Canaanites ahead of them, but would

leave them in the land as “thorns in their side,” and their gods as a “snare” to them. Thus, we can see that the presence of the Canaanites among the Israelites was a manifestation of divine discipline.

Judges 2:7-10

Judges 2:11-15

Judges 2:16-18 – NEVERTHELESS