

MESSIAH IN THE OT

JROC – Winter 2020

Week 19 - “But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this?”

February 23, 2020

Judges covers approximately 265 years. Whereas Joshua, which covered 40 years, does record victory and success, Judges documents Israel’s spiritual, national and social defeats and failures. Israel departed further and further from God. The book of Judges records anarchy as “...every man did what was right in their own eyes.” The book of Judges documents the continual spiraling down into sin with brief episodes of returning to God. Did they really return?

In Judges 2:6-3:6 we find that beginning from a position of enjoying God’s blessing, the Israelites turned from the LORD to the gods and practices of the Canaanites. 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. But after a time of blessing the people again apostatized and the cycle began anew. “Judges” – deliverers, saviors! There were multiple “Judges” because THE ultimate JUDGE, THE SAVIOR had not yet come to dwell. The people were awaiting THE Savior! We see a Messianic theme in the very existence of the Judges.

The book of Joshua reveals God’s faithfulness in giving Israel an earthly kingdom – the land of promise. The book of Judges emphasized Israel’s unfaithfulness in possessing the land. Read Judges 1:21, 27-36.

This downward spiraling book is FILLED with God’s GRACE!!!
BEHOLD, Who appears?

Judges 2 - *Then the Angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal*

The Angel of the LORD, a pre-incarnate appearance of the Messiah Jesus, is introduced to us in Scripture in Gen. 16. His coming from Gilgal had a peculiar significance...it was in Gilgal, the Israelites’ first camp in the land of promise, that the people made a solemn dedication of themselves to God on their entrance into the land (Josh. 4:1-9). In Judges 2 the Angel of the LORD reminds the people of their commitment to Him and rebukes them for their apostasy!

Judges 2:1-6 – *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. 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? 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.

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The Angel of the LORD makes several appearances in the book of Judges!

The Angel of the Lord speaks as God, identifies Himself with God, and exercises the responsibilities of God (Genesis 16:7-12; 21:17-18; 22:11-18; 31:11; Exodus 3:2; **Judges 2:1-4; [5:23]; 6:11-24; 13:3-22; 2 Samuel 24:16; Zechariah 1:12; 3:1; 12:8.**

The key phrase in Judges:

Judges 17:6; Judges 21:25 - *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

A King was needed...about Whom is that speaking? The Messiah!

WHY was this occurring?

Judges 2:10 tells us that after Joshua died and when the first generation in that day surrounding Joshua's death had died, another generation arose who did NOT know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.

Judges 2:13-15 - *They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.* ¹⁴ *And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies.* ¹⁵ *Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed.*

Where do we see the Angel of the LORD – JESUS – the MESSIAH - in the book of Judges?

Immediately in Judges 2

In Judges 6 the Angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon - twice.

In Judges 13 the Angel of the LORD appeared to Samson's parents.

The second appearance of the Angel of the LORD in the book of Judges...w/
background:

Judges 6:1-6 – After 40 years of rest under the Judge, Deborah... *Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years,* ² *and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the*

strongholds which are in the mountains ³ So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. ⁴ Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey... they would enter the land to destroy it. ⁶ So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.

Midian was the son of Abraham and Keturah, one of Abraham's concubines (Gen. 25:2-6). The Midianites were traders. Joseph's brothers sold their brother to the Midianites who then took Joseph to Egypt (Gen. 37:28, 36). When Moses fled from Egypt after killing an Egyptian, he went to Midian where he encountered a Midianite

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priest. Moses married his daughter, Zipporah, and had two sons by her (Ex. 2:15-22). We read about the Midianites seducing the Israelites in the book of Numbers.

The Midianites were a nomadic people who lived SE of Israel, across the Jordan River in what is now Jordan. At harvest time, after the children of Israel had worked the land, the Midianites crossed the Jordan and attacked Israel and took their bounty from the earth. It was at this time that Israel cried out to God for deliverance.

God called Gideon into His service as a Judge (vv. 11-14).

Judges 6:11-12 - *Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites.* ¹² *And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!"* Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress (??). And, Gideon was hiding from the Midianites. This was both difficult and humiliating. The difficult part – threshing grain in a winepress. Wheat was typically threshed in open spaces. Within the confines of a winepress only a small amount of wheat could be threshed at a time. The humiliating part – consider the message from the Angel of the LORD?

"The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!" Was the Angel of the LORD mocking Gideon? The Angel of the LORD knew what Gideon could become in His hands!

READ Judges 6:13-23

Before entering battle, Gideon's troops numbered 32,000, but in obedience to God he reduced them by 22,000 (Judges 7:2-3). Again, in obedience to God, Gideon decreased the remaining 10,000 by a further 9,700, leaving him with just 300 men (vv. 7-8). This was against an enemy that is described as "thick as locusts" with "camels as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore" (Judges 7:12). With the battle finally won, the people suggested that Gideon rule over them as their king, but he declined and told them the Lord would rule over them (Judges 8:22-23). Note the Messianic theme!

And the Angel of the Lord appeared to Samson's parents.

Judges 13:1-6 - *Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. ² Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children. ³ And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, 'Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. ⁴ Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean. ⁵ For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.'* ⁶ So the woman came and told her husband, saying, 'A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; ...' The Angel of the LORD was known. And, His countenance was "very awesome" - *rara* (ya-RA) – to inspire reverence or godly fear.

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Judges 13:1-22 - *Then Manoah (the woman's husband) said to the Angel of the LORD, 'Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You.'* ¹⁶ *And the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, 'Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the LORD.'* (For Manoah did not know He was the Angel of the LORD.) ¹⁷ *Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, 'What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honor You?'* ¹⁸ *And the Angel of the LORD said to him, 'Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?'* ¹⁹ *So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on—* ²⁰ *it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar—the Angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground. ²¹ When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of the LORD. ²² And Manoah said to his wife, 'We shall surely die, because we have seen God!'*

To reiterate, here is what we encounter in the book of Judges: Complacency toward God and His Word; peaceful coexistence with the Canaanites leading to the embracing of their beliefs and practices, particularly the worship of their gods; divine discipline in the form of being handed over to one of their enemies; crying out to God in their time of oppression; and God graciously raising up a deliverer to save them from their distress until they again spiraled downward!

The Judges were failures. And so we look forward to a future King Who would be Whom? The Messiah.

The book of Judges sets the scene for a monarchy in Israel. God had promised to raise up a king in Israel.

In the book of Judges we see so clearly God's sovereign grace in preserving Israel in spite of herself. Why did Israel continue as a nation while repeatedly failing in their belief and obedience? Because God had chosen her as His instrument to bring blessing to the rest of mankind (Gen. 18:18).

Israel failed BUT GOD remained faithful.

The breaking of the conditional/bilateral Mosaic Covenant did NOT destroy the unconditional/unilateral Abrahamic Covenant. The law (the Mosaic Covenant) did not annul the promise (the Abrahamic Covenant)!

The book of Joshua highlights God's hatred of sin. The book of Judges magnifies... God's GRACE toward sinners!

In the time of the Judges God continues to communicate through the Angel of the LORD Who is seen – Who is God. God the Son is Emmanuel...God in the flesh. I believe the Messianic theme continues through Judges and it is strong.

How do we really know?

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Ruth 1:1 – *Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled....* WHOM do we meet in the book of Ruth?

Questions

Have you read the book of Judges in the past?

(You might want to read the book of Judges to grasp God's marvelous grace in midst of the people spiraling downward into sin)

Would you call Judges a book filled with God's grace?

How do you view the Angel of the LORD in the book of Judges? What is the role of the Angel of the LORD in this book?

Suggested Homework

Reread Week 6 with the cross references

Select one teaching from the lesson into which you desire to dig deeper:

Find the cross references in Scripture to that teaching.

Begin to jot down observations about what you're reading in the cross references.

Ask questions and begin to find answers from Scripture.

Share with at least one person what you learned from this lesson.

Read Week 6 when you receive it.

Joshua 11:23 and Joshua 13:1

Turn to Josh. 10:28ff – CONQUEST of the land in the south

v. 40 – read

Josh. 11 – CONQUEST

v. 12

vv. 16-18

v. 23

Josh. 13:1

Judges 1 through 2:1-6