

Through the Bible Course

Judges

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Key Word: Disobedience

Key Verse: 17:6

The Title: Comes from fact God chose 13 different persons called judges who governed Israel from death of Joshua until Samuel. Time variously estimated from 300 to 450 years.

Purpose: To record the history of this period which demonstrates the impossibility of getting along without God.

Two Facts Stand Out:

1. The utter failure of Israel to obey God.
 - a. Did not keep themselves from idols.
 - b. Did not exterminate the inhabitants from the land.

Note: Punishment came and Israel found, as all who are disobedient must find, that God is as true to His threatenings as He is to His promises.
God's holiness and justice could not tolerate their sin.
2. The persistent grace of God. His love would not cast them off. Each time they repented He forgave and blessed.

I. National Sin and Punishment – Chapters 1-16

1. Shows incomplete obedience of Israel – chapter 1
2. Have preview of book – chapter 2
 - a. Sin
 - b. Punishment
 - c. Outcry
 - d. Deliverance through judges
 - e. Return to corrupt ways

Note: Refer to outline on Numbers for cycle which runs through Bible especially in book of Judges.
3. First apostasy – chapter 3:5-7
 - a. Put under Mesopotamians 8 years
 - b. Othniel was judge
4. Second apostasy – 3:12-31
 - a. Put under Moabites 18 years
 - b. Ehud was judge
5. Third apostasy – chapters 4 and 5
 - a. Under oppression of Canaanites 20 years

- b. Deborah and Barak were judges
- 6. Fourth apostasy – 6:1-8:33
 - a. Delivered into hands of Midianites 7 years
 - b. Gideon was judge
- 7. Fifth apostasy – 8:33-10:6
 - a. Civil war
 - b. Tola and Jair were judges
- 8. Sixth apostasy – 10:6-12:15
 - a. Sold into hands of Philistines 18 years
 - b. Jephthah was judge
- 9. Seventh apostasy – chapters 13-16
 - a. Delivered into hands of Philistines 40 years
 - b. Samson raised up as judge, but failed to fully deliver Israel from power of Philistines

II. Lawlessness and confusion – chapters 17-21

- 1. Commercialized religion – chapter 17,18
 - a. Levites forsake true worship of God
 - b. Danites make war
- 2. Immorality is prevalent – chapter 19
- 3. Divisions among Israel and civil war – chapters 20,21

Three Lessons From Judges:

- 1. Disobedience to God leads to immorality, war, etc.
- 2. Judges is one book of the Bible we must tear out if we deny that God does directly, Immediately, and definitely punish sin.
- 3. God needs leaders today. The choice of judges in the book of Judges illustrates the words of Zechariah in Zechariah 4:6 – “Not by might, nor by power, but by Spirit saith the Lord.”