

April 10th 2005: Overview of OT: Judges 2:6-19

In our overview.....last book....JOSHUA.....A book both exciting.....inspiring
The book of Judges is so different

It's a book that highlights.....what happens to a nation.....that forgets God
So often God has to rescue....only to see them slide back....rebellion...suffering

It's a blood thirsty book....that includes stories of weak and corrupt people....
Even a Levite.....and a Priest

The reading.....sums up the period of the Judges...esp the following verses
..2:6-7..... But then v10..... So v14-15.....Then v16.....v18-19.....

In your notes.....Find an overview of the book itself under three headings:-

DETERIORATION..... 1:1—3:4

Begins with a series.....military victories after Joshua's death
But soon it emphasises....repeated failure all tribes.....to drive out
There is compromise with.....Lack of obedience

DELIVERANCE..... 3:5—16:31

In this section we find account after account of the people falling away from God into sin. Each time they are oppressed by another nation and made to serve them. Then God raises up a judge to deliver them, but unfortunately the period of obedience to God that follows such a deliverance never lasts. In fact the people of God get progressively worse. The judges, 13 in number including Barak who served alongside Deborah, are military and civil leaders.

DEPRAVITY..... 17:1—21:25

These chapters reveal religious apostasy(17-18) and social and moral depravity(19-21). Judges closes with a key to understanding the period. 21:25 "In those days Israel had no king; every man did what was right in his own eyes." The people are not doing what is wrong in their own eyes, but what is evil in the sight of the Lord.

LETS MEET THESE JUDGES AND HEAR A LITTLE OF THEIR STORY

The book of Judges.....above all else....points out the weaknesses in sinful...
Even God's people
But especially it reveals so much.....about the character of God

- **WE SEE GOD'S PERSEVERANCE**

Read through the book.....and again and again.....asking.....**Why** did..persevere

Take the story of Deborah...Barak

Deborah was prophetess.....Barak....military commander

She got the message.....from God and gives it to Barak →4:6-7.....

Barak's answer v8..... **How would you feel ...you were God?**

But God persevered ::: Even when the people became more evil...God stuck with them

And GOD STILL PERSEVERES WITH US

This morning let's be thankful for that

GOD'S PERSEVERANCE.....OUR THANKFULNESS

- **WE SEE GOD'S PATIENCE**

We see it so clearly in the story of Samson

He was so shallow in His faith

He broke every part of the Nazarite vow

He obsessed over foreign women.....and his lust caused heaps of problems

Yet God used him to deliver His people

God is so patient with each one of us.....

But we must not take that patience for granted

The Israelites seemed to do so.....right through Judges.....

That's why....in such a mess

IT'S SO IMPORTANT.....THAT WE MEET GOD'S PATIENCE....Confession
Repentance.....Renewal

GOD'S PATIENCE ==== OUR CONFESSION

- **WE SEE GOD'S POWER AND PROVISION**
The story of Gideon.....one of the best stories in Judges
Go home and read the story of Gideon 6-8

Every step of the way.....Gideon had to fully trust God

The Israelites were being oppressed by the powerful nation of Median
In fact the Medianites came and went as they pleased.....Israelites lived in caves

When God put him in charge....raised an army of 32,000
But the midian Army was so great....soldiers were like locusts....couldn't be numbered

THEN God caused Gideon to reduce his army to just 300 men
So that Israel could see....that the battle and the victory...belonged to the Lord

It's a thrilling story.....of God's power and provision
But esp....it's a reminder to us.....that we must look to God,,,His strength
And not be dependent upon our puny resources.....

Or put off from doing what God wants.....Because we feel....weak

GOD'S POWER AND PROVISION.....our willingness to believe
To step out in Faith

GOD'S POWER AND PROVISION === OUR BELIEVING

• **AND ESPECIALLY WE SEE...THROUGHOUT JUDGES GOD'S PLAN**

God kept His light shining through this dark time
When the need was greatest.....He raised up a deliver.....
Often from.....most unexpected place.....Most unexpected person

He used the good times.....bad times.....to create a Nation.....
That would weather the storms.....and learn to survive.....by trusting Him

God has always had a plan for His church.....

Many would have thought that after the middle ages....
which had seen the church become Corrupt....full of superstition...far from
the church would be no more.....But then came Martin Luther and

England in the 18th Century.....destined to follow France....Revolution/
But God raised up the Wesley brothers

God's plan is still on course

He raised up Billy Graham.....He raised up Nickey Gumbell
And I sense...that God is doing....a fresh thing in His church today
HIS PLAN IS ON COURSE

And He has a plan for you too

At times it may seem that your life.....has some of the chaos....see in Judges
But never forget.....God was in control then.....IN control of your.....now

The one thing....God's Plan needs from us.....Is.....Our trust

**GOD'S PLAN === OUR TRUST
GOD'S PERSEVERENCE === OUR THANKFULNESS
GOD'S PATIENCE === OUR CONFESSION
GOD'S POWER AND PROVISION === OUR BELIEVING**

