

JUDGES

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INTRODUCTION

1. Easy Book to read and an interesting one.
 2. But the message of Judges is a more significant one than to interest , entertain
 3. Covers a period of history from the death of Joshua to death of Samson.
 4. In it's introduction the author surveys the behavior of the Israelites toward the Canaanite who were left in the land.
 5. Closes the survey with a reproof of the Jews by the angel of the Lord.
 6. He then describes in a general manner the attitude of Israel to the Lord its God and that of the Lord to His people during time of Judges. Vs. 11,12.
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Oppressions of Israel..

- A. EACH OPPRESSION IS INTRODUCED by common phrase: **BECAUSE...**
“And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord” or
“And the children of Israel again did evil.
 - B. THERE ARE SIX MAJOR OPPRESSIONS CITED:
 1. By Mesopotamia & the relief wrought by Othniel.
 2. Of the Moabites by king Eglon & deliverance by Ehud.
 3. The subjugation of Israel by Jabin, deliverance by Deborah.
 4. The Midianites oppress Israel and delivered by Gideon.
 5. Israel given into the power of Ammonites, delivered by Jephthah.
 6. Oppressing by Philistines and the life and works of Samson.
 - C. TWO OTHER SECTIONS IN THE BOOK:
 1. Worship of images by the Ephraimite, Mich and its introduction to Dan. and Northern Palestine.
 2. One of the most infamous events in the Bible, the reproachable conduct of the inhabitants of Gibeah and the war of revenge by Israel against tribe of Benjamin.
 - D. WHY WERE THESE EVENTS INCLUDED?
 1. Much of the book concerns itself with general description.
 2. These events picture in detail the religious and moral conditions during the period of Judges.
 3. Like appendices they furnish further evidence of the spirit of the age, as manifested by those deeds.
 - E. **THE PROBLEM:** *“Every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”*
(17:6).
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THE JUDGES

A. THEIR ROLE:

1. Deliverers who led their followers out of power of enemies.
2. They had the function of administering the laws.
3. They had the responsibility of procuring right..”
4. Later on in I Samuel 7:5,6; the people asked Samuel to give them a king to “judge us.”

B. They were raised up directly by the Lord and endowed by Him with miraculous power to work His way.

1. Did not pass their authority to another person.
 2. They were men for special periods.
 3. The ordinary administration of justice and government of the country still remained in the hands of the heads of the tribes and the elders of the people.
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HOW GOD WORKED

A. Judges is written from God’s point of view. It is first of all, a revelation of what God is like.

B. The book reflects a part of God’s plan.

1. To choose a separate people and keep them apart from all others, and through this people to raise up the Messiah.

C. His instructions are clear.....As they are for us today.

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|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. He gave them a land. | 2. He gave them a law. |
| 3. He gave them a task. | 3. He gave them a promise. |
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Judges Mirrors the People

A. The Jews were the chosen people of the Old Dispensation as Christians are today of the New Dispensation.

B. The Jew’s real problem was a religious one.

1. The heart of all their other problems was the matter of their relationship with God.
 2. They were guilty of the lack of complete obedience.
 - a. They did not drive the Canaanite from the land as commanded.
 - b. We can put a lot of “reasons” to our failures today, but like Israel of old, we cannot justify them.
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The Divine Restoration

- A. God's avenues for achieving His will among Jews was the use of men.
 - 1. They were leaders.
 - 2. Leaders are essential for any undertaking.
 - B. Who encourages more to become leaders.
 - 1. How do we treat our leaders?
 - 2. Where are the Hannah's?
 - C. Only to the extent that the Lord's people are aroused and committed to the understanding of who our enemies are and what it is going to take to overcome them, can we be victorious.
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God Giving His People Up

- 1. Sad thing about the book of Judges is that with all of the cycle of apostasy and restoration, at the end of this era the Jews begin a period of lowered spiritual insight.
 - 2. The people desired a "king", not because of the will of the Lord, but because of the limitation of their own outlook. "To be like the nations round about them".
 - 3. What is the heritage we are passing on to the next generation?
 - 4. Will we give them a heritage in which we rely on tricks rather than on substance to win interest in the gospel of Christ?
 - 5. Will they be ignorant of God's word because we have been so little concerned about it?
 - 6. God gave them up.....
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Book Preserved Because

- 1. We cannot reasonably expect the Lord to bless us, unless first of all we obey Him. (The examples of the book).
 - 2. If we vow to do a thing, we should be conscientious to do what we vow. (Jephthah).
 - 3. When people follow those who know the Lord, they, too, tend to serve the Lord (and visa versa).
 - 4. That the God of Heaven is not a God who cannot be touched by our distress.
 - 5. When men do what is right in their own eyes, it almost always is wrong. (17:6).
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