

# PULPIT NOTES

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8570 Bright Angel Way, Las Vegas, NV 89149

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Sunday Morning

## JUDGES

### I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. Someone has called the Book of Judges the account of the Dark Ages of God's people. The people forsook God (2:13) and God forsook the people (2:23).
- B. Judges covers the period after the death of their great leader, Joshua, to the ascension of Saul to the throne of Israel. These people were ruled by judges whom God raised up to deliver His oppressed people. Judges covers somewhere around 400 years.
- C. When we think of the Judges, we are not to think of a succession of continued leaders. The Judges sometimes overlapped, and often did not deliver the whole nation but a particular tribe. We are not to think of them in the modern sense of making judgments in court cases but rather, as deliverers - the judgments were God's judgments upon other nations..
- D. Have you ever wondered what the first years of living in the promised land were like after Joshua and those who ruled with Joshua died? Judges tells us in a graphic way. Judges is filled with struggle and disaster. There is a decided monotony in the description of each successive stage of sin in Israel, but there is an equally remarkable variety in the instruments and methods of deliverance which God used.
- E. There are fifteen Judges — Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Barak, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson, Eli and Samuel.
- F. There were three types of Judges:
  - 1. The Warrior-Judge as Gideon and Samson.
  - 2. Priest-Judge as Eli.
  - 3. Prophet-Judge as Samuel.
- G. The book begins with compromise and ends with confusion.

### II. LESSONS FROM JUDGES.

- A. There is a cycle of Sin, Oppression, Crying unto the Lord, Deliverance, and Rest.
- B. Every man did that which was right in his own eyes (Judges 17:6).
- C. One Thing we learn is that a people who spend much of their time in disobedience to God make little progress during their lifetime.
- D. Judges teaches of man's constant failure and God's constant mercy.
- E. Though His people always turned away from Him, God is always brooding over His disobedient children. He promises us that He will never leave us nor forsake us. We see defeat on man's part but deliverance on God's part. "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound (Romans 5:20)."
- F. We see His dealings with His own rebellious people, whom He has crowned with His best blessings and upon whom He had lavished His tender love. We find the patience of God and His constant readiness to respond to the least sign of penitence in His people (Judges 3:9,15; 4:3-7; 6:6-12; 10:15,16).
- G. He repeated His mercy again and again although it was never appreciated. If you think on these things, it will draw you nearer to this God of mercy and love and grace. Look up, repent and trust God.
- H. "Now these are the nations which the Lord left, to prove Israel by them" (3:1). The Lord proves His people.

KJV Judges 3:1 Now these *are* the nations which the LORD left, **to prove Israel** by them, *even* as many of *Israel* as had not known all the wars of Canaan; 2 Only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof; 3 *Namely*, five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites that dwelt in mount Lebanon, from mount Baalhermon unto the entering in of Hamath. 4 And they were **to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the LORD**, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

## SEVEN FAILURES, SEVEN SERVITUDES, AND SEVEN DELIVERANCES

	SIN	PUNISHMENT	DELIVERER AND JUDGE
First Judges 3:7-11	Idolatry	8 years	Othniel
Second Judges 3:12-31	Immorality and idolatry	18 years	Ehud and Shamgar
Third Judges 4; 5	Departed from God	20 years	Deborah and Barak
Fourth Judges 6 - 8:32	Departed from God	Midianites for 7 years	Gideon
Fifth Judges 8:33-10:5	Departed from God	Civil war, etc.	Tola and Jair
Sixth Judges 10:6-12:15	Idolatry increased	Philistines, Ammonites, 18 years	Jephthah and successors
Seventh Judges 13-16	Departed from God	Philistines, 40 years	Samson