

Bible Study – Outline

Judges

The Pattern of Defeat

DECLINE – DISCIPLINE – DELIVERANCE

Timeframe – 300 + Years

Overview

In Joshua, the land of Canaan is the picture of the Spirit-filled life. The land signifies the understanding and application of the principles of victory over sin through the risen life of an indwelling Lord. God's whole purpose for the believer is to get him out of Egypt -- the world and its ways, the place of slavery and bondage -- through the wilderness with all its defeat, barrenness and fragmentary enjoyment of God's resources, into the land with its promise, supply and victory.

This is brought out so clearly in the book of Judges. While Joshua is a book of victory (under Joshua -- which means Jesus -- there was consistent victory when the Israelites faithfully obeyed him). Judges is a book of defeat and of failure. It is the first in a series of books, which sets before us the warning spots, the danger signals, and the perils that lie along the pathway of a believer. The pattern of defeat that is described in the book of Judges is presented to us over and over again.

The principle that always meant defeat in the lives of the nation of Israel is given to us in the very last verse of the book. If you miss that, you miss the key to the book:

In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes. (Judges 21:25)

Notice that it does not say, "Every man did what was wrong in his own eyes." These people were not trying to do wrong. They were not essentially rebellious people determined to thwart the will of God in their lives. At this stage of Israel's history these people were very determined to do right, but they were trying to do what was right in their own eyes. The pattern of peril in this book of Judges can be simply put this way -- they were given over to the folly of consecrated blundering. They were consecrated, dedicated blunderers -- meaning to do right but ending up all wrong.

Source: Adventuring Through the Bible – Ray Stedman

Key People

Ehud (3) the judge went to visit the king in his summer palace and slid his dagger between the fifth and sixth ribs of the king so that the fat closed around it and he couldn't draw it out again.

Deborah (4-5) and **Barak** defeat **Sisera** – with help from **Jael** who drives a tent stake through the skull of **Sisera**

Gideon (6) - God cuts his army down from thirty-two thousand to three hundred, and sends him into battle.

Jotham's prophecy fulfilled in God's strange and mysterious workings against Abimelech, the false judge.

Jephthah's (10-12) daughter comes out to meet him coming back from the battle and he remembers the vow that he had made that the first person he met as he came home he would sacrifice to God, and he has to fulfill that vow. Judges 11:30

Samson (13-16) wreaks havoc among the Philistines with that tremendous God-given strength of his, and yet his naive folly in allowing the Del to worm the secret of his strength out of his heart, and finally destroy him.

Micah (17-18) – idolatry and the tribe of Dan

Key Scriptures

Judges 1:21 Jebusites were not driven out

Judges 2:10 New generation did not know the Lord or what He had done for Israel

THE PATTERN

- Judges 2:11-12 Followed other gods and angered God
- Judges 2: 13 – 15 God disciplines
- Judges 2:16-18 Judge is raised – Grace prevails
- Judges 2:19 Judge dies – Israel goes back to their old ways

Judges 2:22 “I will use them to test Israel....”(NIV)

Judges 17:6 “...every man did what was right in his own eyes.”

Judges 19- 21 The Benjaminite perversion

Judges 20 18, 27 Asking counsel of God

Judges 21:17 The Benjaminites must not be wiped out

Judges 21:25 “In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

ISRAEL FAILS TO COMPLETE THE CONQUEST OF CANAAN	1:1 – 3:4
The failure of the tribes of Israel	1
The judgment of the tribes	2:1 – 3:4
THE SEVEN CYCLES OF DELIVERANCE	3:5 – 16:31
Judge Othniel	3:5 - 11
Judge Ehud	3:12 – 30
Judge Shamgar	3:31
Judge Deborah, Barak leads a victory	4 - 5
Gideon defeats the Midianites	6:1 – 8:32
Judge Abimelech	8:33 – 9:57
Judge Tola	10:1 - 2
Judge Jair	10:3 - 5
Judge Jephthah	10:6 – 12:7
Judge Ibzan	12:8 - 10
Judge Elon	12:11 - 12
Judge Abdon	12:13 - 15
Judge Samson	13 - 16
THE DEPRAVITY OF ISRAEL UNDER JUDGES	17 - 21
Israel sinks into idolatry	17 – 18
Israel sinks into immorality	19
The war between the tribes	20 - 21

Discussion Questions

Judges 2:22 – who did God use to test Israel? And why?

Settling for compromise in our own spiritual lives

Doing right in our own eyes – vs – doing wrong

Does God require human sacrifice – what about the daughter of Jephthah?

What is the message related to making decisions that is given in Judges 20?

Lessons learned

Settling for less than complete victory

Resources

www.biblegateway.com

www.biblestudytools.com