

Who Is My King? - Rise Above Lifes' Challenges

Layout of Judges:

1. Double Introduction (chap. 1-3)
 - 1.1. Political/Moral corruption
 - 1.2. Spiritual/Religion corruption
 - Spiritual/Religion corruption leads to Political/Moral corruption
2. Main Content (chap. 3-16)
 - 2.1. The deeds of the judges as a response to the intro.
3. Double Conclusion (chap. 16-21)
 - 3.1. Spiritual/Religion corruption
 - 3.2. Political/Moral corruption
 - On one hand, the Israelites have difficulties facing the Canaanites;
 - On the other hand, the Israelites have their own civil war
4. Four main points throughout this book
 1. God's people forsake and sin against God.
 2. God disciplines his people.
 3. God's People turn back to God and cry out for help.
 4. God delivers his people through the judges. Peace reign for many years. After the judges died, God's people sin against God again.
5. Key phrase: "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit." (17:6; 21:25; 18:1a; 19:1a)
6. Past challenges for the Israelites:
 - 6.1. Moses' biggest challenge was to lead the Israelites out of Egypt
 - 6.2. For the Judges, their biggest challenge was to take over Canaan

Application: Every time period has their own challenges and today, we have our own. We need courage. The source of our courage comes from God who is faithful to keep his promise (2:1). God was there in the past and God is here today. The key is, "Today, is God our king?"

7. Israel carries God's promise and his presence to enter the Promise Land. When Joshua was alive, he never really lost a battle. After, Israel failed to take over the land. (chap. 1)

8. What do you think contribute to their failure of taking over the land that God promised?

Reasons of why Israel failed:

1. No Longevity. Following God needs longevity. The Israelites grow tired after all the winning. They could not finish strong.

Application: Have Longevity. Paul said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7)

2. Disobedience. Although Israel's enemies are big and strong with iron chariots (1:19), in God's eyes, the Israelites forgot about God (2:1-2). They assimilated with the people in the land. They worshipped other idols. So, God brought discipline by allowing Israel's enemies like thorns in their sides and the idols like a trap to the Israelites (2:3).

Application: Is God our one and only God? How do we view the world with God's eyes? How do we face the world with God's guiding words from the Bible?

3. Serve other idols (3:5-6) vs serve God alone (2:6-7).

Application: God allows challenges to grow the faith of his people (3:1-4). What challenges do we face today? Do we give thanks to God for the challenges? Let's ask God to help us to experience him through the challenges of today.