

By Faith – the Judges

Sermon 41 in the Hebrews Series

Hebrews 11:32 -- *And what shall I more say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthah; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:*

A Constant Pattern throughout the Book of Judges

Israel serves the Lord – Israel falls into idolatry – Israel is enslaved – Israel cries out to the Lord – God raises up a judge – Israel is delivered – repeat patte

I. By Faith – Barak

Barak's story really cannot be told without two women.

Judges 4:4-9 -- “the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hand of a woman”.

4:14-22 – the deliverance

And chapter 5 is the song of Barak and Deborah

II. A Key Passage in the Book -- Judges 2:1-5

- A. The Angel of the Lord is the pre-incarnate Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. The audience is the next generation after the time of Joshua.
- C. The Angel of the Lord reminds the Israelites of God's faithful dealings with them in leading them from Egypt to the Promised Land.
- D. He also reminds them that His covenant with them cannot be broken.
- E. The land is theirs, but they will have to battle. In fact, the Canaanites would not be totally defeated.

III. Understanding the Symbolism of Judges

Very often, people, in their zeal to make sound application miss the point of the book of Judges. We cannot equate the USA to OT Israel.

The Book of Judges is unique in that it has two introductions.

A. The First Introduction – Judges 1:1-2:5

The failures of Israel as they go into the land.

They never completely drive out the enemy.

1:19, 27a, 28, 29a, 30a, 31a, 32

B. The Second Introduction – Judges 2:6-10

Then we are given a more extensive commentary on the moral and spiritual failure of Israel.

C. Unfaithful Israel -- Judges 2:11-23

1. They were unfaithful in their covenant to God – they were covenant-breakers by going after false gods.
2. God was faithful in His covenant with Israel – but left “thorns in their side”. 2:3, 20-23
3. The hand of the Lord was against them for evil -- v. 15
4. They grew worse and worse -- 2:19 –23; 17:6; 21:25
5. The Transition from the OT Nation to the NT Church -- Acts 2:22-36

Applications:

1. Is Christ your King?
2. Have you fled to the only refuge? Acts 2:37-41
3. Are you one of those who are “doing what is right in your own sight?”
4. How could a generation grow up who knew not the Lord? -- Judges 2:10