

Book of Judges Handout

Theme of the Book of Judges

The Judges are types of saviours: some prophets, some priests, some like kings or generals, all representing the true and only Begotten Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. God proves His faithfulness to His people both in corporate estates of humiliation and exaltation, which was surely a great comfort to the God-man, even as it is for us in Him. God's justice is exhibited in the 6 oppressions by God's enemies; yet also His mercy is exhibited in delivering His people from oppression according to His covenant promises. The idolatrous heart of humanity is taught in the two examples of idolatry at the end of the book, where they do whatever is right in their own eyes.

Book of Judges Outline

- I. The history of covenant keeping and breaking from after Joshua to the Judges, chapters 1:1-3:7
 - A. The matters conducted by the tribe of Judah: chapter 1.
 - B. The disobedience and repentance of the people: chapter 2.
 - C. The Nations left in the land, and the defection of the people: chapter 3:1-7.
- II. The history of six oppressions of the People of God, chapters 3:8-16:31
 - A. First oppression: by Chushan and the deliverance through Othniel (chapter 3:8-11)
 - B. Second oppression: by Eglon and the deliverance through Ehud (chapter 3:12-31)
 - C. Third oppression: by Jabin
 1. The oppression itself, and the deliverance through Deborah: chapter 4.
 2. The victory song of Deborah: chapter 5.
 - D. Fourth oppression: by Midian (chapters 6:1-10:5)
 1. The oppression itself, and the calling of Gideon: chapter 6.
 2. The deliverance through Gideon: chapter 7.
 3. The continuation of the victory, and the idolatry of Gideon: chapter 8.
 4. The tyranny of Abimelech, and the parable of Jotham: chapter 9.
 5. The judgeship of Tola: chapter 10:1-5.
 - E. Fifth Oppression: by the Philistines (chapters 10:6-12:15)
 1. The oppression and repentance of the people: chapter 10:6-18.
 2. The deliverance through Jephthah, and his vow: chapter 11.

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3. The massacre of the Ephraimites: chapter 12.
- F. Sixth Oppression: by the Philistines (chapters 13-16)
 1. The oppression itself: chapter 13:1.
 2. The deliverance through Samson
 - a) The birth of Samson: chapter 13:2-25.
 - b) His strength and marriage: chapter 14.
 - c) The little foxes and the jawbone: chapter 15.
 - d) Imprisonment and death: chapter 16.
- III. Two Examples of the corruption of the people of God, chapters 17-21
 - A. The first: the Idolatry of Micah (chapters 17, 18)
 1. The Idolatry of Micah, and the Anarchy of the people: chapter 17.
 2. The Idolatry of the Danites with Micah's idols: chapter 18.
 - B. The second: the Whoredom of the Gibeonites (chapters 19-21)
 1. The forcing of the concubine by the Gibeonites: chapter 19.
 2. Vengeance upon the Benjamites: chapter 20.
 3. The carrying off of the Virgins: chapter 21.

Bible-knowledge Catechism Question

Q: Who are the 13 Judges depicted in the Books of Judges?

A: The 13 judges are as follows:

- 1) Othniel
- 2) Ehud
- 3) Shamgar
- 4) Deborah the Prophetess together with Barak
- 5) Gideon
- 6) Abimelech
- 7) Tola
- 8) Jair
- 9) Jephthah
- 10) Ibzan
- 11) Elon
- 12) Abdon
- 13) Samson