

Unfolding God's Plan of Redemption

Themes from the Old Testament: Judges

When You Think You're Right...You're Wrong!

Israel continues to decline in spirituality and a vibrant relationship with God. We must be slow to condemn them however, because they tell the story of all nations and peoples, even the church; hence the need for periodic revivals. Judges tells the story of their further decline into what we call today "situational ethics" or "moral relativism." It is a sad chapter in her history and even the potential leaders have little to offer by way of godliness.

I. Overview of the Book of Judges

- A. Othniel (3:9-11)—Israel served Cushan-Rishathaim 8 years, Othniel delivered them (+)
- B. Ehud (3:11-29)—Left handed prophet who killed Eglon the Moabite king with a double edged Sword (+)
- C. Deborah (4-5)—Along with Barak, triumphed over Jabin, King of Caanaan, and Sisera, his army commander. Because Barak would not go without Deborah, she is credited (+)
- D. Gideon (6-8)—defeated the Midianites. He was a very fearful man who required a double test with the fleece and made an idol (ephod) out of the spoils of war (-)
- E. Abimelech (9)—A wicked man who declared himself king and killed all his brothers. (-)
- F. Jephthah (11-12:7)—Foolish man who leveraged his circumstances to gain wealth and who also promised to offer a sacrifice to God the first thing that came out of his house if God would give him victory—as a consequence he sacrificed his daughter. (-)
- G. Sampson (13-15)—A proud womanizer who brought grief upon himself by taking a Philistine woman into his confidence, Delilah. (-)

II. Key Verse and Corollaries

- A. Judges 17:6 and 21:25: In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
- B. C&MA Statement of Faith: *The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.*
- C. The truly faithful trust and believe in the wisdom and rule of Scripture: Not science, not medicine, not psychology, not culture or democracy, not government—legislative, executive, or judicial

III. When Everyone Does What THEY Think is Right the result is:

- A. Situational ethics
- B. Moral relativism
- C. These views are as old as humanity (Cain)
- D. They deny the wisdom, sovereignty, and Lordship of God