

Judges
CPBC
4/25/10

Introduction;

- Judges is different from Joshua
- Joshua obedient people conquered the land through trusting in the power of God
- Judges a disobedient people are defeated frequently because of rebellion against God
- Judges is a book of defeat and disgrace
- There is a summary of the book in 2:10-19
 - Blessing, disobedience, chastening, repentance, deliverance
 - A book of incomplete victory
 - Book of failure of the people to trust God's word and claim His power
- *Spiritual Lesson:*
 - *Joshua represents crossing the river – separation from sin, death to self*
 - *Israel entered the land, but failed to take total possession*
 - *Tolerated the enemy*
 - *Took tribute from the enemy*
 - *Mixed with the enemy*
 - *Surrendered to the enemy*
 - *Only through the judges they found victory*
- *The Land:*
 - *Joshua led the nation collectively in great victories*
 - *Judges records a divided nation no longer devoted to the Lord*
- *The Judges:*
 - *13 different judges*
 - *Not national leaders but local leaders who delivered people from various oppressors*
 - *Not all tribes participated in each battle*
 - *Spirit came upon the leaders for a particular time, not on the people as a whole*
 - *Sometime the personal lives of the judges were not great (Samson)*
- *Nations that remain: Heathen*
 - *To punish Israel (2:3, 20-21)*
 - *To prove Israel (2:22)*
 - *To provide Israel with experience in warfare (3:2)*
 - *To prevent the land from becoming a wilderness (Dt. 7:20-24)*
 - *Jews could have enjoyed total victory, instead settled for compromise*
 - *We do the same today!*

Purpose:

- To show God's judgment against sin is certain

Author:

- Possibly Samuel

Key Verse:

- "In those days there was no king in Israel, everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (17:6)

Outline:

- I. Apathy (1-2)**
- II. Falling way and rescue by the judges(3-16)**
- III. Each one living for themselves (17-21)**

I. Apathy (1-2)

- There was:
 - Early victories (1: 1-26)
 - *But these led to a series of compromises*
 - *Judah could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley (19)*
 - *Benjamin could not overcome the Jebusites (21)*
 - *Other tribes settled down with the heathen nations*
 - Repeated defeats (1-27-36)
 - Godly rebuke (2:1-5)
 - Idolatry (2:6-23)
 - *2:10 – arose a generation that did not know the Lord*
 - *Had not even led their own children to the Lord*
 - *2:12 – forsook the Lord*
- Downfall began with apathy – unconcerned and indifferent so, could not conquer the land
- Heathen nations became a thorn in their sides
 - *Today instead of living in victory (overcoming the enemy) we compromise and let the enemy drag us down*
 - *Only way back- repent and return*

II. Falling away and rescue by the judges (3-16)

- 1. *Othniel (3:1-11)* Oppressed by Mesopotamia for 8 yrs
 - a. *Rest for 40 yrs*
 - b. *Name means "God is might"*
 - c. *Caleb's son-in-law*
- 2. *Ehud and Shamgar (3:12-31)* Oppressed by Moab for 18 yrs
 - a. *Rest for 40 yrs*
 - b. *Killed the king – mustered his army*

- c. *Shamgar – not listed as judge – victory over Philistines*
 - d. *God uses ordinary people*
 - 3. *Deborah and Barak (4-5)* Oppressed by Canaanites for 20 yrs
 - 4. *Gideon (6-8)* Oppressed by Midian for 7 yrs
 - 5. *Tola and Jair (9:1-10:5)* Oppressed by Shechem – no definite time
 - 6. *Jephthah (10:6-12:15)* Oppressed by Ammonites for 18 yrs
 - 7. *Samson (13016)* Oppressed by Philistines for 40 yrs
- Began to worship other gods
 - God would send nations to punish Israel
 - Israel would repent, God would send an deliverer

III. Each on living for themselves (17-21)

- Idolatry (17-18)
- Immorality (19)
- Internal war (20-21)
- Let's look at the ministry of two of the judges:
 - Gideon
 - Samson
- **Gideon (6-8)**
 - Hiding from the enemy (6:1-24)
 - *Hiding in caves*
 - *Could not harvest grain*
 - *God gave Gideon some promises:*
 - *Lord is with you (12)*
 - *You will save Israel, I have sent you (14)*
 - *Surely I will be with you (16)*
 - *Faith comes by the word of God*
 - *Gideon required a sign and God granted it*
 - Being challenged by God (25-32)
 - Tear down your father's alter to Baal
 - *Build an altar to Jehovah*
 - *Public declaration of his willingness to follow God*
 - *Sacrifice your dad's special bull*
 - *Did not believe – did it at night with 10 men helping him*
 - *We must stand steadfast for the Lord*
 - The conqueror (6:33-8:3)
 - Conquered his fears (6:33-7:14)
 - *Put out the fleece (6:36-40)*
 - *7:9-15 – Gideon was afraid until heard soldiers talking in the Midianite camp*
 - *Barley poorest kind of food – God use farmer to win battle*

- Conquered his enemies (7:15-25)
- Conquered his feeling (8:1-3)
 - *Ephraim got upset because not called to help in the battle*
 - *Gideon – used Pr.15:1 – soft answer turns away wrath*
- Compromised (8:4-35)
 - *Won great victory*
 - *Upset with men of Succoth and Peniel*
 - *Dealt with them in the flesh*
 - *People wanted to make him king – he said no*
 - *Give me earrings and ornaments*
 - *Made a golden ephod – became an idol*
 - *Satan attacks subtly when we least expect it*
- **Samson (13-16)**
 - Did not like his heritage (13)
 - *Born in godly home*
 - *Called Samson to be a Nazarite – separated one – surrendered to the Lord*
 - *Samson despised his heritage*
 - Defied his parents (14:1-4)
 - *One evidence of spiritual decline is how you get along with your loved ones*
 - *He “went down” spiritually and geographically*
 - *Left Israel, fell in love with heathen woman*
 - *Told his father – get me that woman*
 - Defiled his body (14:5-20)
 - *Got honey from a dead body (he was not to touch dead bodies)*
 - *Gave some to mom and dad – passed the sin along*
 - Did not heed God’s warning (15)
 - *God made Samson weak physically*
 - *It showed him because he disobeyed God it would lead to weakness*
 - Deliberately played with sin(16)
 - *Delilah went to her because he loved her*
 - *From now on Samson does nothing but lose*
 - *Loses his hair*
 - *Loses his strength*
 - *Loses his sight*
 - *Loses his liberty*
 - *Loses his usefulness to the Lord*
 - *All result of sin*
 - *Lost his testimony*
- *Illustrates the person who has power to conquer others but cannot conquer himself*

SPIRITUAL LESSON OF JUDGES :do not compromise with the word of God!