

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

OH MY LORD,... I AM THE LEAST IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE.

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, JANUARY 12, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING: **JUDGES 6:14-15**

Judges 6:15, *And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.*

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Although the author is unknown, I take the position that Samuel was the writer of the **Book of Judges**.
- b. It was written between 1043 BC and 1004 BC.
- c. It spans a period of approximately 350 years from the death of Joshua until the birth of Samuel.
- d. This book, along with all other books in the Bible, holy men of God wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. **2 Peter 1:21**, *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.* God himself promised to preserve the Word for every generation. **Psalms 12:6**, *The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.* **7:** *Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*
- e. Regardless of who the writer might be, we know **the Word of God is indeed God-breathed.** **2 Timothy 3:16**, *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*
- f. The **Book of Judges** was written in the Promised Land of Canaan and is addressed to the Israelites but like all other Scripture, it has application to the church.
- g. The book bears the name Judges and takes its title from the twelve men and one woman who served as judges during that period.
- h. As we examine the background of these judges, we find all were limited in their capability.
- i. It seems that each judge had some type of defect, which is what God wanted to use from a positive perspective as He called them.
- j. None of these judges were national leaders like Moses and Joshua.
- k. They were local judges limited to a particular section of the nation.
- l. Previously we spoke about the children of Israel, Moses was giving them instructions and Joshua was preparing to lead them into the Promise Land.
- m. We will spotlight the children of Israel as they were in the land God had promised them:
 1. You may recall the instruction was love and obedience; they were to obey what God had said, otherwise they would be oppressed and eventually put out of the land. **Deuteronomy 30:20**, *That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.*
 2. The children of Israel entered the land with the promise of God with high hopes and exuberant expectations.
 3. They failed to follow God's plan and as a result they were miserably defeated on many occasions. **Proverbs 14:34**, *Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.*
 4. Israel found this out the hard way and so will America.

5. To neglect God is not what it's all about; we are in for some very difficult and hard times in the days ahead. **Deuteronomy 5:32, Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.**
6. If we would take a lesson from the Children of Israel and reverse the course in which we are on, God will indeed take care of business for us.
7. The Bible says in **2 Chronicles 7:14**, *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Although this was spoken to the Nation Israel, it has application for our great country as well.* However, we must keep in mind that God never promised to heal our land.
8. There was not a leader to take Joshua's place in the way that He had taken Moses' place.
9. This was a trial period for the nation of Israel and their theocracy after they had entered the land that flowed with milk and honey.
10. If you will recall, Samuel was the last judge and the first of the prophets.
11. This should have been a time of great progress in the land, but it was very dark days of repeated failure.
12. The Israelites took certain steps downward; they move away from God, however, God did not move away from them.
13. **Judges 2:11**, reminds us of this fact. *And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim:*
14. They forsook the Lord because they served other gods, so they had a very rough time in the land. **Judges 2:14**, *And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.*
15. Of course **God is always there for us**; Israel repented and God heard their prayers and raised up judges through whom they were delivered. Then again the nation served God. **Judges 2:16**, *Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.*
16. This process is repeated several times over, it was a cycle; they served God then turned away to other gods.
17. While they were serving the True God there was prosperity in the land. **Proverbs 29:2**, *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.*
18. If we could get our leaders in America to turn and read the Bible and see what happened to the Israel nation, I think we would have a reverse course of history. **1 Corinthians 10:11**, *Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*
19. We have men and woman who are so smart that they have ignored the Bible; we have at least 150 copyrighted versions of Scripture exploding on every hand, men and women changing the Word of God to suit their own benefit; but **in the final analysis the Scriptures will indeed prevail.** **Matthew 24:35**, *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.* **Psalms 138:2**, *I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.*
20. The newer versions of Scripture have done nothing more than add mass confusion within the body of Christ. Every vital doctrine has been attacked. **1 Corinthians 14:33**, *For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.* **1 Corinthians 1:10**, *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*
21. Isaiah outlines three downward steps of a nation.
 - a. **Spiritual apostasy** which we are experiencing in our country.
 - b. **Moral awfulness** which we are experiencing.
 - c. **Political anarchy** which is the final stage of any nation which we are also experiencing.
22. **These steps have destroyed nations down through the years and will in fact destroy America as well.**
23. The Bible is more up to date than our morning newspaper.

24. Listen to the words of **General Douglas Macarthur** prior to 1964: "In this day of gathering storms, as moral deterioration or political powers spreads its growing infection, it is essential that every spiritual force be mobilized to defend and preserve the religious base upon which this nation is founded. For it has been that base which has been the motivating impulse to our moral and our national growth. History fails to record a single precedence in which nations subject to moral decay have not passed into political and economic decline. There has been either a spiritual re-awaking to overcome the moral lapse or a progressive deterioration leading to ultimate disaster."
25. **Beware America, lest this befalls us!**
- n. With that tone, let's review several themes in the **Book of Judges**.
1. **There is always a price to be paid for our sins.**
Hebrews 11:25, *Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;*
 2. The price of sin is destruction and death.
 3. We all need proper leadership in our lives.
 4. **The most important leader for the world today is the Lord Jesus Christ who is to judge both the quick and the dead.** **2 Timothy 4:1**, *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;*
 5. Without strong leaders we are more inclined to be influenced by damaging circumstances and deceptive people. **Ephesians 4:14**, *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;* **Colossians 2:8**, *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*
 6. **God, in His mercy, will deliver when we repent whole-heartedly of our sins and obey Him.**
Jonah 3:5, *So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.* **Jonah 3:10**, *And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.*
 7. Doing right in our own eyes is not necessarily doing right in the eyes of God. **Proverbs 30:12**, There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.
- o. With this background let's see what we can glean from God's Word today as we study this outstanding Book.

2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the Morning message January 12, 2020

3. TWO POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

i. And the Lord looked upon him.

1. **Judges 6:14**, And the Lord looked upon him, and said, *Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?*
2. Here is Gideon's call and commission from God.
3. It is a commission of courage and God strengthened Gideon just as He did Moses and Joshua.
4. **Gideon did not believe God, even at this point. He focused on circumstances rather than trusting in God. He immediately sought for a sign and reflected on his weaknesses.**

j. And Gideon said "Oh my Lord I am the least in my father's house."

1. **Judges 6:15**, *And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.*
2. What a startling revelation from Gideon, because when we are the least and consider ourselves as nothing then God is able to use us.
3. I have learned in the ministry when I am weak, then I am strong.
4. We are not to depend on the flesh as so many Christians do. We do so much in the flesh. **Romans 8:3-5**, For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 5: For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.
5. When we are in the flesh we cannot please God. **Romans 8:8-9**, So then they that are in the

- flesh cannot please God. 9: But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.
6. Gideon felt he was the last man whom God would choose.
 7. It is amazing that **God's choice is not always man's choice.**
 8. You can remember that the people's choice was Saul, but God's choice was David.
 9. David was chosen by God to be the King of Israel, of whom God said in **Acts 13:22**, And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.
 10. **Our problem today is most of us are too strong for God to use us.**
 11. **1 Corinthians 1:26-27**, For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;
 12. God uses people that the world would never plan to use.
 13. He will use anyone of us if we were to humble ourselves.
 14. **1 Corinthians 1:28-29**, And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29: That no flesh should glory in his presence.
 15. **God cannot use proud men or women;** He had to humble Moses as He took him to the backside of the desert. **Proverbs 11:2**, When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom. Proverbs 14:3, In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them. Proverbs 16:18, Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.
 16. God chose Elijah, which was not weak but God schooled him in the desert and forced him to listen to that still small voice of the Holy Spirit. This is the same prophet that God commanded the ravens to feed. **1 Kings 17:4**, And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.
 17. Most of us are so busy running until we don't listen to what God has to say. **1 Thessalonians 4:11**, And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;
 18. We are running ahead of the Lord most of the time.
 19. **Psalms 46:10**, Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. The Word of God has indeed has spoken to our hearts today.
- b. God is able to use you and I my friend; He is able to take our fear away and henceforth, He is able to put us forth to do a mighty work for Him. **1 John 4:18**, There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.
- c. **Luke 5:10**, And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.
- d. God tells us to go into the highways and the hedges and compel people to come to Christ. **Luke 14:23**, And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.
- e. In order to lead people to Christ we must be saved and born again.
- f. Jesus tells us in **Romans 3:23**, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- g. **Romans 3:10**, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
- h. **Romans 10:9-10**, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- i. Would you please stand?

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