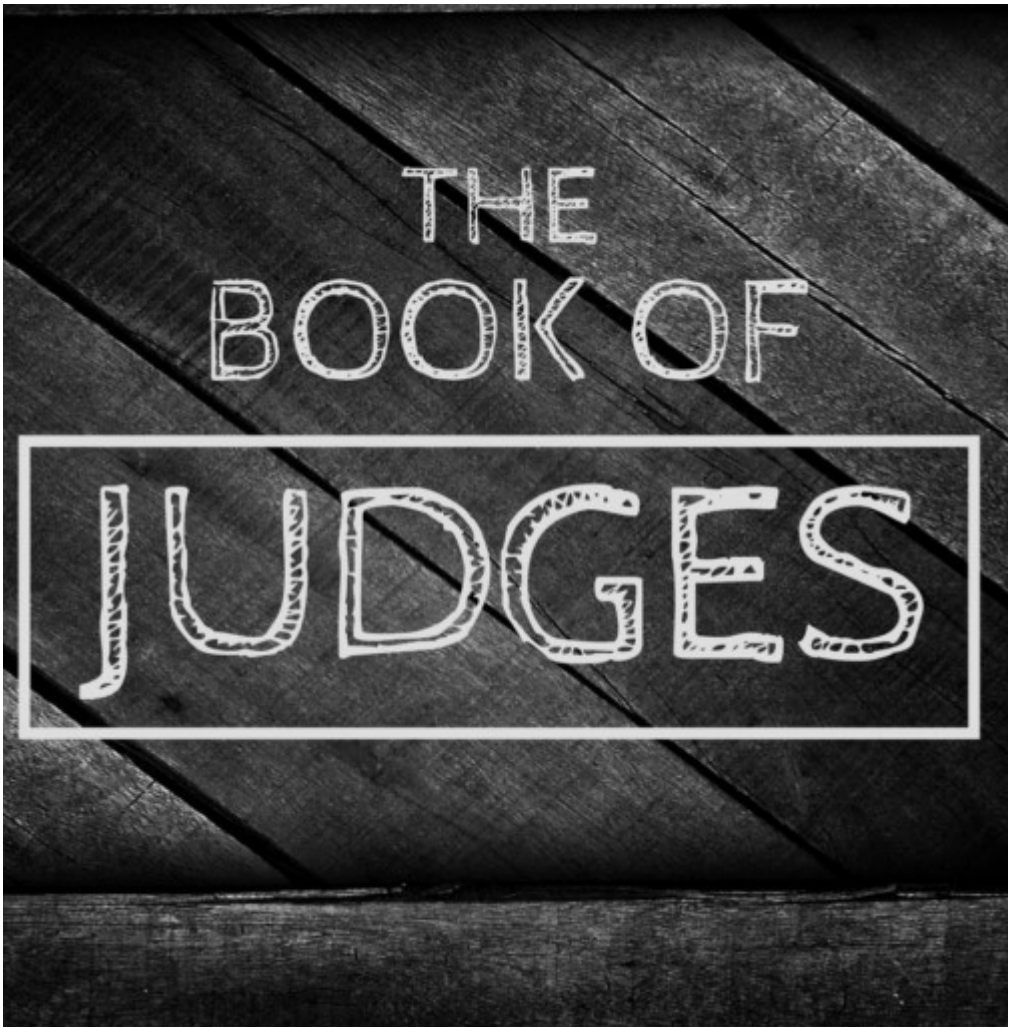


Let's Worship God

28th Feb. - 5th March 2022
Judges



JUDGES

Monday - Judges 6:1-6 - Midian

Israel's relationship with Midian has been a rocky one. Like the Israelites, the Midianites were a nation descended from Abraham (as we learn in Genesis 25:1-2). Moses had lived among the Midianites when he fled Egypt after killing an Egyptian. His wife, Zipporah, was the daughter of a priest of Midian. Israel's Kenite allies were descendants of this family of Midianites.

On the other hand, the Midianites were involved in leading Israel into the worship of false gods (recorded in Numbers 22-25), and Israel had defeated them in battle (as Numbers 31 tells us). Now, several generations later, the Midianites return to oppress Israel. Banding together with the Amalekites and other eastern tribes, they invade Israel each year for seven years, stealing Israel's produce and laying waste the land. If not for the strongholds and caves in the hills, the Israelites would have been overwhelmed or starved to death. Only what meagre rations they could store in these places would have sustained them for the coming year.

Here we see another example of God's using sin sinlessly. The Midianites and their allies mean this for evil against Israel, but God is using it to discipline His people and bring them back to Himself. We can trust that He will use even the wicked intentions of the enemies of the Church to bring about what is best for us.

Questions

1. Who were the Midianites?
2. How does God use them to discipline Israel?
3. What are some other ways in which God has used the evil intentions of sinners for the good of His people?

Prayer Points

1. Praise God that He uses even the wicked intentions of our enemies for our good.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"But the LORD said to him, 'Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.'" Judges 6:23

Praise: Psalm 31 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

JUDGES

Tuesday - Judges 6:7-10 - The Prophet of the LORD

When the people cry out to Him for deliverance from these terrible circumstances, the LORD gives His reasons for ordaining the oppression of Israel at the hands of the Midianites and their allies. He sends a prophet to remind Israel of what He has done in the past for them, delivering them from slavery in Egypt and driving out the pagan peoples of the land of Canaan in order to give them a land in which to dwell and prosper. Yet the Israelites have rejected the LORD and turned to the worship of the false gods of the Amorites. ("Amorites" is a word meaning "westerner," and is sometimes used as a convenient term for all the peoples of the land of Canaan).

In Joshua 24, God had warned against this very thing, and Joshua had asked the people if they would serve gods their ancestors had worshipped in Mesopotamia and Egypt, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land they now lived, or the LORD. At that time, the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD and serve other gods." Sadly, such dedication to the true God has not lasted the few generations between Joshua's time and the time recorded in Judges 6.

How easily we stray from the LORD. Churches, denominations, educational institutions, and even entire nations founded on Biblical principles and the desire to worship the true God often fall away from the intent of their founders in a mere handful of generations. May we remain faithful, even when others forsake the LORD.

Questions

1. Why did God allow the Midianites to oppress Israel?
2. What had God done for Israel that made this faithlessness all the more wicked?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that formerly Christian institutions may return to the LORD.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"But the LORD said to him, 'Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die!'"
Judges 6:23

Praise: Psalm 32 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

JUDGES

Wednesday - Judges 6:11-24 - Gideon Meets the LORD

In this passage we are introduced to Gideon, arguably the greatest of the judges of Israel. However, a much more important Person appears in this passage. The Angel of the LORD sits under a terebinth tree at Ophrah, a town belonging to the clan of Abiezer in the half of the tribe Manasseh who live west of the Jordan. Verses 14, 16, and 23 indicate that this Angel is the LORD, Himself - a truth reinforced by the fact that the Angel accepts Gideon's sacrifice. For reasons mentioned in our study of chapter two, we understand this to be the Son of God, Jesus Christ before His incarnation, appearing as a Man to communicate with His people. Thus, it is Christ, Himself, the great Deliverer, who commissions Gideon to be a deliverer of Israel.

He appears to Gideon as he threshes grain in a winepress, thereby hiding it from the Midianites. He says the LORD is with Gideon, calling him a "mighty man of valor." Gideon, however, questions that if God is with Israel, how could such things as the oppression by the Midianites occur? The LORD tells Gideon it is he who will be God's instrument to deliver Israel. Gideon protests that he is least in his father's house, which is from the weakest of the clans of Manasseh. He demands a sign to confirm the Word of the LORD - a sign which the Angel graciously provides as He consumes Gideon's offering with fire from a rock.

God has chosen a man with weak theology (who questions God's presence in the face of difficult circumstances), who is the least of his father's house from a weak clan in a weakened tribe in a vanquished nation. He will use such a man to prove His sovereign power.

Questions

1. Who is the Angel of the LORD?
2. Why does Gideon question that God is with Israel?
3. What sign does the Angel give Gideon?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we have a strong, God-honoring theology.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"But the LORD said to him, 'Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die!'"
Judges 6:23

Praise: Psalm 33 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

JUDGES

Thursday - Judges 6:25-32 - The Altar of Baal

Gideon has questioned that the LORD is with Israel, even though the great sins for which God was using the Midianites to chastise Israel are readily apparent in Gideon's own family. His father has an altar to Baal and an Asherah (a wooden pole symbolizing the fertility supposedly granted by a goddess), at which the people of their town worship false gods. The LORD commands Gideon to use his father's bull to pull down these idols. He is then to build an altar to the LORD, sacrifice a second bull and burn it on the wood from the Asherah pole, thus showing God's power over false gods.

Gideon, fearing his family and the people of the town, does this with the help of ten servants in the dead of night. However, when the townspeople investigate the next day, it becomes clear that Gideon is responsible. When the people want to put Gideon to death, his father, Joash, intervenes saying Baal should contend for himself if he is a god. Because of this, the Bible often calls Gideon by the nickname "Jerubaal" which means "Let Baal contend."

Though Gideon is reluctant and fearful at first, his obedience to God does not result in his execution at the hands of Baal worshippers. On the contrary, it convinces his idolatrous father of the emptiness of these false gods.

Similar to Gideon, many of us live in cultures that have turned against the LORD. Whether we live in historically Christian nations or not, idolatry and false religion are in evidence all around us. May we be bold to proclaim the true God in the face of idol worship.

Questions

1. How has idolatry infiltrated Gideon's family?
2. Why is Gideon called "Jerubaal"?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we be bold in the face of idolatry to proclaim the true God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"But the LORD said to him, 'Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.'" Judges 6:23

Praise: Psalm 34 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

JUDGES

Friday - Judges 6:33-35 - The Spirit of the LORD

As has become the norm over the last seven years, the Midianites, Amalekites, and people of the East gather together and cross the Jordan in order to plunder Israel once more. This year, however, will be different than the previous seven. Gideon's destruction of the altar of Baal has placed him in the forefront of resistance to Israel's enemies. More importantly, we are told "the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon." Thus, it is by the power of the Holy Spirit that Gideon is able to mount a counter attack against the oppressors of Israel.

By the power of the Spirit of the LORD, Gideon, the least of his father's house from a weak clan in Manasseh, is able authoritatively to call Israel to follow him in battle. His own clan, the Abiezerites, answer his call. Soon after, the rest of Manasseh gathers to follow Gideon, as do the tribes of Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali.

In light of the New Testament, we can see the Persons of the Godhead at work in these events. The Father has decreed that Gideon will be the deliverer of Israel. The Angel of the LORD (the Son) has visited Gideon and commissioned him to be the deliverer of Israel. The Holy Spirit now empowers Gideon to be the deliverer of Israel.

Questions

1. Who decreed that Gideon would deliver Israel?
2. Who commissioned him to do so?
3. Who empowered him to do so?

Prayer Points

1. Praise the Triune God for His gracious works.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"But the LORD said to him, 'Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.'
Judges 6:23

Praise: Psalm 35 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

JUDGES

Saturday - Judges 6:36-40 - The Sign of the Fleece

Four tribes of Israel - Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali - have mustered to follow Gideon in battle against the Midianites, Amalekites, and people of the East. Now we see Gideon's uncertainty surfacing once again. Despite all God has done to grant him success so far, Gideon demands a sign to prove the LORD is with him. He devises a test wherein he asks God to cause dew to appear on a fleece laid on a threshing floor, but not on the ground. When this occurs, Gideon asks for the reverse - that the ground hold the dew while the fleece does not.

Again we see the weakness of Gideon's faith. After all God had done for Israel in the past and despite the evidence that their present afflictions were due to His chastising hand, Gideon questioned the LORD's faithfulness. Now, even though the LORD has clearly preserved him through the episode with the altar of Baal and has empowered him to call out the tribes of Israel to war, Gideon demands two more signs that God is with him. The LORD graciously gives Gideon that assurance.

That God graciously gave Gideon the signs for which he asked, should not be used as an excuse to put the LORD to the test. Deuteronomy 6:16 commands "You shall not put the LORD your God to the test." Jesus quotes this when Satan tempts Him to throw Himself from the pinnacle of the Temple in order to prove that He is the Son of God. (If He were the Son of God, the angels would bear Him up lest He dash His foot against a stone).

Questions

1. Did Gideon sin by testing God?
2. Why did God accede to Gideon's demands?
3. Does Gideon's test give us permission to test the LORD?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

"But the LORD said to him, 'Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.'" Judges 6:23

Praise: Psalm 36 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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