GIDEON – MIGHTY WARRIOR

Judges 6:12 When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, “The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.”

The Judges – God’s Plan

Judges 21:23 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

I Samuel 8:6-8 But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. And the LORD told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day; forsaking me and serving other gods; so they are doing to you.”

The Pattern of Judges

Judges 2:18&19 Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD relented because of their groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them. But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their ancestors, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

God Raises up a Judge who rescues them from their enemies.

They serve the LORD for the lifetime of the Judge.

The Judge dies and they revert to their corrupt practices.

God lets their enemies triumph over them.

In their distress they cry out to the LORD for deliverance.

When they cry out, God raises up a judge who rescues them from their enemies.

Jeremiah 17:5&6 This is what the LORD says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD. That person will b like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.”

Jeremiah 17:7&8 “But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fail to bear fruit.”

How Long Did the Victories Brought by the Judges Last?

Judges 3:11 So the land had peace for forty years, until Othniel son of Kenaz died.

Judges 3:30 That day Moab was made subject to Israel, and the land had peace for eighty years. (after Ehud)

Judges 5:31d Then the land had peace for forty years. (After Deborah and Barak)

The Midianite Invasion

Judges 6:1-3 The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and stronghold. Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country.

Judges 6:4-6 They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the LORD for help.

First God Sends a Prophet

Judges 6:7&8 When the Israelites cried out to the LORD because of Midian, the LORD sent them a prophet, who said, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.”

Judges 6:9&10 I rescued you from the hands of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. I said to you, ‘I am the LORD your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.’ But you have not listened to me.

Then He Calls Gideon

Judges 6:11&12 The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, “The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.”

Deuteronomy 25:4 Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.

Isaiah 41:15a “See, I will make you into a threshing sledge, new and sharp with many teeth.

Ruth 3:2b Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor.

Matthew 3:12 His winnowing fork is in his hand,

Psalm 1:4 Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

Hosea 13:3 (NKJV) They shall be like the morning cloud and like the early dew that passes away, like chaff blown off from a threshing floor and like smoke from a chimney.

Matthew 21:33 And dug a wine press in it.

Nehemiah 13:15a In those days I saw in Judah people who were treading wine presses,

“Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites” when God called him “mighty warrior.”

Romans 4:17 As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed - the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

John 1:42 And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

Cephas and Peter both mean rock.

Gideon Objects

Judges 6:13 “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

Malachi 3:6a “I the LORD do not change.”

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Malachi 3:7b “Return to me and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

Isaiah 59:1&2 Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear to dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you so that he will not hear.

Lessons to Learn

Our trust must be in the Lord, not in any man.

Cycles of obedience bringing blessing and disobedience bringing judgment were common in the Book of Judges.

God sent a prophet to rebuke Israel before He sent a judge to rescue them.

A man “beating out wheat in a winepress” did not look like a good choice.

Gideon wanted to blame their problems on God, not on their sin.