

“Overpowered and Oppressed”

Judges 6:1-10

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES**1. Judges can be divided into 3 parts:**

Faltering Conquest (1:1-2:4)

Cycles under the Judges (2:5-16:31)

Anarchy under the Levites (17:1-21:25)

- 6 major judges interspersed with 6 minor judges.

2. Cycles under the Judges:

- The Israelites do evil in the eyes of the LORD, turning to serve other gods.
- God delivers them over to oppression (by another nation, ruler, or king).
- Israel cries out in their suffering and God raises up a leader (“judge”) to deliver them.
- Peace is restored but the nation turns again to sin after the judge dies.

3. The story of Gideon. Judges 6:1-8:32

- Gideon is also called “Jerubbaal.” Judges 8:35; 1 Sam 12:11

THE COST OF SIN. v.1-6**1. Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. v.1**

- The LORD gave them into the hand of Midian.

2. The Midianites overpowered Israel. They were ruthless. v.2-5

- They drove them out of their homes to live in caves. v.2
- They took their food and livestock. v.3-4
- They overtook their land and used it as their own. v.5
-This invasion appears to have been an annual event—for 7 years (ref. 6:1).
- They would destroy what they could not steal. “laid waste”

3. Israel was “brought very low” because of Midian. v.6

- Lit. “made small” = a reversal of God’s covenant command to go forth and multiply!
- Ref. Adam (Genesis 1:28), Abraham (12:1-3), Israel in Egyptian slavery (Exodus 1:7,12,20)

4. The oppression of Midian echoes the oppression and power of sin in our lives. Ref. Romans 6:23

- None of the other stories in Judges gives this much attention to the details of oppressors.
- Sin ‘plunders’ us – the way the Midianites plundered Israel.
- There are parallel themes in NT letter to the Romans... B/c of sin, “God gave them over...” (1:24, 26, 28)

THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD (IN SENDING A PROPHET). v.7-10**1. The people of Israel cried out to the LORD for rescue. v.7**

- NT example: The Prodigal Son. Luke 15:14-17:
- Jesus: *Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*

2. The LORD sent a prophet. v.8a

- Role of a prophet = remind Israel of their covenant obligations & responsibilities.
- NOT to ‘tell the future’

3. The prophet’s message. v.8b-10

- These words are virtually identical to the words of the angel of the LORD in Judges 2:1-3.
- The message echoes God’s covenant language in Exodus 20:1f.
- 1 Corinthians 2:14: But the natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

→ Greater resolve will never rescue you from your sin—because resolve was never the problem → ABILITY.

→ The God who has done great things for you requires loyal & joyful obedience.

(Next week’s text: Judges 6:11-27)