

THE TRUE KING REIGNS

Public Reading of Scripture Sunday

Judges Chapters 17-21 | Pastor Tony Shen | August 30, 2020

Give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. ~ The Apostle Paul, in 1 Timothy 4:13

Context of Judges in Timeline of God's Redemptive Program

~1900 BC God calls Abraham
400 years of slavery in Egypt
1445 BC Exodus
~1405 BC Conquest of Canaan ("The Promised Land")

PERIOD OF THE JUDGES

"In those days there was no king in Israel..." 21:25

1050 BC United kingdom of Israel: Saul, David, Solomon
930 BC Split: northern (Israel) & southern (Judah) kingdoms
722 BC Assyria conquers Israel
606 BC Babylon invades Judah
586 BC Babylon destroys Jerusalem
536 BC Persia allows exiled Jews to return to Jerusalem
Greece defeats Persia
Roman Republic and Empire
~6 BC Jesus of Nazareth born

The Book of Judges Is Structured Symmetrically

Chapters	Events	Structure
Judges 1	Socio-political decline <i>Foreign wars Woman blessed</i>	Prologue 1
Judges 2	Religious decline	Prologue 2
Judges 3-16	Major and minor judges	Body
Judges 17-18	Religious decline	Epilogue 1
Judges 19-21	Socio-political collapse <i>Domestic wars Women degraded</i>	Epilogue 2

Abraham Kuruvilla, "Judges: A Theological Commentary for Preachers," Pericope 14.

The Cycles of God's Grace and Israel's Infidelity

Cycle	Oppressor	Years of Oppression	Judge-Deliverer	Years of Peace
1 (3:7-11)	Mesopotamians	8	Othniel	40
2 (3:12-30)	Moabites	18	Ehud	80
Paraphrase	Philistines	-	Shamgar	-
3 (Ch 4-5)	Canaanites	20	Deborah w/ Barak	40
4 (Ch 6-8)	Midianites	7	Gideon	40
5 (8:33-10:5)	Abimelech	3	(Tola, Jair)	23, 22
6 (Ch 10-12)	Ammonites	18	Jephthah (Ibzan, Elon, Abdon)	6, 7, 10, 8
7 (Ch 13-16)	Philistines	40	Samson	20

Lowlights of Chapters 17-21

Epilogue 1 (Chapters 17-18)

- Micah makes idols out of silver
- Micah hires a Levite and the Levite sells out
- Danites steal the idols and the Levite from Micah
- Danites massacre a city and set up a pagan worship center

Epilogue 2 (Chapters 19-21)

- A Levite hunts down his concubine, then abandons her
- Men from Gibeah rape and abuse her to death
- The Levite desecrates her body to spur Israel to action
- Tribe of Benjamin refuses to give up the criminals
- Israel nearly wipes out the tribe of Benjamin in fratricide
- Israel and Benjamin kidnap women to "save" Benjamin

Discuss with your friends, family, Community Group

1. This Sunday we did a public reading of Scripture of Judges chapters 17 through 21. Were there any verses that jumped out, either comforting or challenging you?
2. Why is it important to read the Bible in its context? What are some risks of reading Judges out of context, particularly the dark and disturbing epilogues contained in chapters 17 to 21?
3. We too live in an age when "everyone did what was right in his own eyes." Discuss the moral relativism of our culture. Share how sin has deceived you into disobeying what you know from God's word. Be specific; confess your sins to one another. Then pray for our culture and for each other for repentance by us and deliverance by Christ, our Savior and our only hope.