

**I. Introduction to the Book of Judges.**

- A. Purpose of the Book
- B. Themes: (1) Israel's unfaithfulness (Jdg 21:25); and (2) The Lord's faithfulness (Jdg 2:18)
- C. Structure of the Book of Judges
  - 1) Introduction
    - a) Israel's Relation to the Land/Historical Intro. (1:1-36)
    - b) Israel's Relation to the LORD /Thematic Intro.(2:1-3:6)
  - 2) The Judges of Israel (3:7-16:31)
  - 3) Conclusion: The Wickedness of Israel
    - a) Violation of the First Table (17:1-18:31)
    - b) Violation of the Second Table (19:1-21:25)
- D. Approach to reading and understanding the book of Judges: (1) Historic-Redemptive (Isa 33:22); and (2) Experiential (Heb 11:32, 12:1)
- E. The Importance of Narrative
- F. The Importance of Old Testament Narratives, in particular:
  - 1) Faces us with the reality that the Church has enemies.
  - 2) Shows to us the sinfulness of sin.
  - 3) Exhorts us to fight and conquer both sin and Christ's enemies.
  - 4) Encourages us that the faithful Church will succeed in her mission.
  - 5) Reminds us that Christ is the Victor, and not man
    - a) It is always the Lord who grants victory (1:4a)
    - b) Particular contrasts between the Judges and the Lord Jesus:
      - i. Regarding Their Holiness
      - ii. Regarding Their Deliverance

**II. Judah and Simeon Go to War Together (vv 1-3).**

- A. Exposition of the Text
- B. Historic-Redemptive Application
  - 1) Christ is the Prince of Peace. (Gen 49:8, 10; Isa 9:7)
  - 2) Christ has earned the reward of heaven for us.
  - 3) The Lord does not despise the weak.

- 4) Christ is the Captain of our Salvation.
- 5) Christ leads the Church to conquer His enemies (Mt 28:20).

**C. Experiential Application**

- 1) We are to seek forgiveness from God (Gen 49:5-6; Jsh 19:9)
- 2) Men, take responsibility.
- 3) We are not to despise weaker Christians, but are to labour alongside them.

**III. Judah and Simeon Conquer Jerusalem (vv 4-10).**

- A. Exposition of the Text
- B. Historic-Redemptive Application
  - 1) Christ is conquering His enemies (Lk 10:18).
  - 2) There is a clear contrast between the wicked tyranny and Christ's redeeming rule (Mt 15:25-27)
  - 3) The retributive justice of God is demonstrated (Num 32:23)
  - 4) The wicked will confess Christ in hell (Phil 2:9-11)
- C. Experiential Application
  - 1) We are to kill our sins.
  - 2) We are to seek to defeat particular sins and the enemies of the Church, rendering them useless (2 Cor 10:3-6)
  - 3) Remember the principle of pursuit.
  - 4) Remember that we will all die, and then comes the judgment (Heb 9:27)
  - 5) The Lord purges our sin so that we might be used in His service.
  - 6) The Lord accomplishes this purging of our sin through the fire of His providence and presence.
    - a) The only-good and only-wise providence of the Lord is used to purge us from sin.
      - i. The grace of God in our prospering.
      - ii. The grace of God in our sufferings.
      - iii. The two-edged sword of His Word.
      - iv. The wounding of our consciences.
      - v. The discipline through punishment for our sins.
    - b) The presence of the Lord purges us from our sin (Isa 6:2)
  - 7) Let us look forward to our heavenly reward.