

I. The Judgeship of Tola (vv 1-2).

- A.** The setting
 - 1)** Such is the mercy and grace of God
 - a)** Pointing to the work of Christ (Gal 4:4-5)
 - b)** A continuing comfort
- B.** His Name and Lineage — *Tola the son of Puah, son of Dodo, a man of Issachar*
 - 1)** His name is *Tola*, meaning Worm (Psa 22:6-8)
 - 2)** He is of the tribe of Issachar (Gen 49:15)
 - a)** He saw that the inheritance of the Lord was good and worth pursuing and preserving by faithfulness to God
 - b)** Though he was a ruler, yet he was a servant.
 - c)** How this is true of the Lion of Judah
- C.** His dwelling — *And he lived at Shamir in the hill country of Ephraim*
- D.** His duty — *And he judged Israel twenty-three years*
- E.** His death — *Then he died and was buried at Shamir*

II. The Judgeship of Jair (vv 3-5).

- A.** His lineage — *After him arose Jair the Gileadite*
 - 1)** The Lord raised up two faithful judges back-to-back
 - 2)** Jair is of the tribe of Manasseh from Gilead
 - 3)** Even his name, Jair, means ‘He enlightens’ – so Christ (Jn 8:12).
- B.** His judgeship — *Who judged Israel twenty two years*
- C.** His legacy — *And he had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys, and they had thirty cities, called Havvoth-jair to this day, which are in the land of Gilead*
 - 1)** Jair’s thirty sons — *he had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys*
 - a)** This is reminiscent of Gideon’s seventy sons
 - b)** These sons served as deputies of Jair
 - c)** The text notes specifically that they rode on donkeys, for:
 - i.** Israel did not import horses, per God’s Law (Dt 17:16)
 - ii.** Donkeys denote times of peace, chariots denote war.
 - iii.** For Christ, the true and great Judge, is the Prince of Peace (Zech 9:9-10)
 - 2)** Their cities — *they had thirty cities, called Havvoth-jair to this day* (Pr 10:7)
- D.** His laying to rest — *And Jair died and was buried in Kamon*

III. Further Applications from the Text.

- A.** Let us not be so discouraged by our current day to disbelieve the fact that God can bring days, even lasting days, of peace.
 - 1)** Which indeed follow God’s judgement and discipline for sin, and then the people’s repentance.
 - 2)** Which shall be longer than the days of unrest.
 - 3)** What shall you do if the Lord were to give you peace and blessing?
 - a)** A warning against stagnation, which is decline.
 - b)** How are you desirous to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ this upcoming year?
 - c)** Some helpful starting places:
 - i.** What is a particular sin you want to absolutely put to death this year?
 - ii.** What is a grace or virtue that you want to particularly grow in?
 - iii.** What is a particular Bible-reading and meditation goal for this year?
 - iv.** What are some Scripture, Psalm, and catechism memory goals this year?
 - v.** What are goals for godliness in relationships with others this year
 - d)** Encouragements to this self-examination and resolution:
 - i.** Be specific
 - ii.** Be realistic
 - iii.** Be in prayer
 - iv.** Be in community
 - v.** This is our discipleship (Lk 14:27-31)
- B.** Let us see our need for quiet faithfulness to the Lord (1 Thes 4:9-11)
- C.** Let us consider that our days shall indeed come to an end — *Then he died and was buried at Shamir . . . And Jair died and was buried in Kamon*
 - 1)** We need an everlasting and everliving Judge (Isa 33:22)
 - 2)** What shall be our legacy? (Psa 90:12-17)
 - 3)** Where shall be our inheritance? — *Was buried at Shamir . . . was buried in Kamon*
 - 4)** With the end of a year, and the end of a work, and the beginning of a new, where shall we go from here?