

SCRIPTURE: *Judges 2:1-23*

SERMON: *The Faithfulness & Goodness of God*

3 May 2009

INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND: SUCCESS & FAILURE (1:1f & 1:19,27f; 2:2; see Col.3:5f,12f)

B. CONTEXT: ENEMIES WITHOUT & WITHIN (2:3-5,20f; e.g., 3:8,12 & 4:2f; see Jn.15:18; Rom.7:23; Gal.5:16f; 1Jn.2:16)

C. REFRAIN: THE JUDGES CYCLES (2:11-23; *rebellion, retribution, repentance, restoration*; e.g.; Jdgs.3:7-11; see Ps.106:6f,40f,44,45f; 47f,4; 107:4f,10f,17f,23f,33f; 43; see Dt.30:1-3; Jonah; Lk.15:11f; 2Chr7:13,14; Gen.3&Heb.9,10)

I. REBELLION: GOD'S PEOPLE SIN (see Rom.7:23; Gal.5:16f; 1Jn.1:8)

A. OTHNIEL (3:7)

B. EHUD (3:12a)

C. BARAK (4:1)

II. RETRIBUTION: GOD DISCIPLINES HIS PEOPLE (see 2Sam12:13f; 1Co5:5; Heb12:5f)

A. OTHNIEL (3:8)

B. EHUD (3:12b-14)

C. BARAK (4:2,3b)

III. REPENTANCE: GOD'S PEOPLE TURN (see 2Sam12:13(Ps32,51); Mt18:15f; Jm5:19f; 1Jn1:9)

A. OTHNIEL (3:9a)

B. EHUD (3:15a)

C. BARAK (4:3a)

IV. RESTORATION: GOD HAS COMPASSION ON HIS PEOPLE (see Ps.32,51; 103:13f; 2Cor.2:6f; Gal.6:1; Heb.12:11f; 1Jn.1:9)

A. OTHNIEL (3:9b-11)

B. EHUD (3:15b-30)

C. BARAK (4:4f; 5:1f; see Heb.11:32)

CONCLUSION

A. LEARN FROM BIBLE HISTORY! (Ps.107:43 *contra* 106:6; 78:8,57; see *Judges*)

B. KNOW THAT GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS WORD! (Dt.30:1-3; Rom.2:6f; Gal.6:7f; Mk.1:15; Acts 16:31)

C. KNOW THAT GOD IS GOOD TO HIS PEOPLE! (Dt.30:1-3; Ps.106:1f; 107:1f; Jonah; Lk.15:11f; Heb.12:5f)

D. KNOW WHERE YOU ARE AND WHAT TO DO! (Ps.107:43; see Jdgs.3:7-11,*etc!*)

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

*Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.*

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
4. What are the primary *doctrinal* points of this passage? Do you *believe* these things?
5. What are the primary *practical* points? Do you do *these* things?
6. How did Israel get itself into the problem that plagued them in the book of Judges? How does this apply to us?
7. What is the cycle that is repeatedly witnessed in *Judges*?
 - a. How is this declared in general in chapter 2?
 - b. How is this classically exemplified with Othniel?
 - c. How is this exemplified with Ehud? With Barak?
8. What *do* we usually learn from history? What *should* we learn from Bible history? (See Ps.107:43)
9. What three promises does God make to us? (see Dt.30:1-3)
10. How is His *faithfulness* to each of these promises exemplified in Judges 3-5?
11. How is God's *goodness* evident in His faithfulness to each of these promises?
12. Where are you in the Judges cycle? What do you need to do?