

## **April 10<sup>th</sup> 2005: Overview of OT: Judges 2:6-19**

**In our overview**.....last book....JOSHUA.....A book both exciting.....inspiring  
The book of Judges is so different

**It's a book that highlights**.....what happens to a nation.....that forgets God  
So often God has to rescue....only to see them slide back....rebellion...suffering

**It's a blood thirsty book**....that includes stories of weak and corrupt people....  
Even a Levite.....and a Priest

**The reading**.....sums up the period of the Judges...esp the following verses  
..2:6-7..... But then v10..... So v14-15.....Then v16.....v18-19.....

**In your notes.....Find an overview of the book itself under three headings:-**

### **DETERIORATION..... 1:1—3:4**

Begins with a series.....military victories after Joshua's death  
But soon it emphasises....repeated failure all tribes.....to drive out  
There is compromise with.....Lack of obedience

### **DELIVERANCE..... 3:5—16:31**

In this section we find account after account of the people falling away from God into sin. Each time they are oppressed by another nation and made to serve them. Then God raises up a judge to deliver them, but unfortunately the period of obedience to God that follows such a deliverance never lasts. In fact the people of God get progressively worse. The judges, 13 in number including Barak who served alongside Deborah, are military and civil leaders.

### **DEPRAVITY..... 17:1—21:25**

These chapters reveal religious apostasy(17-18) and social and moral depravity(19-21). Judges closes with a key to understanding the period. 21:25 "In those days Israel had no king; every man did what was right in his own eyes." The people are not doing what is wrong in their own eyes, but what is evil in the sight of the Lord.

***LETS MEET THESE JUDGES AND HEAR A LITTLE OF THEIR STORY***

**The book of Judges**.....above all else....points out the weaknesses in sinful...  
Even God's people  
But especially it reveals so much.....about the character of God

- **WE SEE GOD'S PERSEVERANCE**

Read through the book.....and again and again.....asking.....**Why** did..persevere

**Take the story of Deborah...Barak**

Deborah was prophetess.....Barak....military commander

**She got the message**.....from God and gives it to Barak →4:6-7.....

Barak's answer v8..... **How would you feel ...you were God?**

**But God persevered ::::** Even when the people became more evil...God stuck with them

**And GOD STILL PERSEVERES WITH US**

This morning let's be thankful for that

**GOD'S PERSEVERANCE.....OUR THANKFULNESS**

- **WE SEE GOD'S PATIENCE**

We see it so clearly in the story of Samson

He was so shallow in His faith

He broke every part of the Nazarite vow

He obsessed over foreign women.....and his lust caused heaps of problems

**Yet God used him to deliver His people**

**God is so patient with each one of us.....**

But we must not take that patience for granted

The Israelites seemed to do so.....right through Judges.....

That's why....in such a mess

**IT'S SO IMPORTANT**.....THAT WE MEET GOD'S PATIENCE....Confession  
Repentance.....Renewal

**GOD'S PATIENCE ==== OUR CONFESSION**

- **WE SEE GOD'S POWER AND PROVISION**  
The story of Gideon.....one of the best stories in Judges  
**Go home and read the story of Gideon 6-8**

**Every step of the way**.....Gideon had to fully trust God

**The Israelites were being** oppressed by the powerful nation of Median  
**In fact the** Medianites came and went as they pleased.....Israelites lived in caves

**When God put him in charge....raised an army of 32,000**  
But the midian Army was so great....soldiers were like locusts....couldn't be numbered

**THEN** God caused Gideon to reduce his army to just 300 men  
**So that Israel could see**....that the battle and the victory...belonged to the Lord

**It's a thrilling story.....of God's power and provision**  
But esp....it's a reminder to us.....that we must look to God,,,His strength  
And not be dependent upon our puny resources.....

**Or put off from doing what God wants.....Because we feel....weak**

**GOD'S POWER AND PROVISION**.....our willingness to believe  
To step out in Faith

**GOD'S POWER AND PROVISION === OUR BELIEVING**

• **AND ESPECIALLY WE SEE...THROUGHOUT JUDGES    GOD'S PLAN**

**God kept His** light shining through this dark time  
**When the need** was greatest.....He raised up a deliver.....  
Often from.....most unexpected place.....Most unexpected person

**He used the good times.....bad times.....**to create a Nation.....  
That would weather the storms.....and learn to survive.....by trusting Him

**God has always had a plan for His church.....**

**Many would have** thought that after the middle ages....  
which had seen the church become Corrupt....full of superstition...far from  
**the church would be no more.....**But then came Martin Luther and

**England in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.....**destined to follow France....Revolution/  
But God raised up the Wesley brothers

**God's plan is still on course**

He raised up Billy Graham.....He raised up Nickey Gumbell  
**And I sense...that God is doing....a fresh thing in His church today**  
**HIS PLAN IS ON COURSE**

**And He has a plan for you too**

At times it may seem that your life.....has some of the chaos....see in Judges  
**But never forget.....**God was in control then.....IN control of your.....now

**The one thing....**God's Plan needs from us.....Is.....Our trust

**GOD'S PLAN === OUR TRUST  
GOD'S PERSEVERENCE === OUR THANKFULNESS  
GOD'S PATIENCE === OUR CONFESSION  
GOD'S POWER AND PROVISION === OUR BELIEVING**

