

Bring Back To Remembrance

The Time Of The Judges

(Jg 21:24-25)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on “Bring Back To Remembrance.”
 - a. Last week we looked at “The Fall Of Jericho.”
 - i. We learned what “by faith” biblically means.
 - ii. We learned therefore how to properly honor God and draw closer to Him.
 - b. This week we will be examining “The Judges.”
 - i. **Jg 21:24-25** “And the people of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family, and they went out from there every man to his inheritance. 25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”¹
3. Depending on who you ask there are anywhere from 12 to 15 judges in the Bible.
 - a. I will not take the time to name each and every one of them but if you want to know their names you can ask one of our young people here as they know a song that names each one of them.
 - b. Some key named judges are...
 - i. Deborah, Gideon, Samson, Eli, Samuel...
4. I have written in my Bible on the page wherein the book of Judges starts an illustration titled “Sin Circle.”
 - a. During my time at BTSOP we studied every single book of the Bible.
 - i. Out of all that studying there is only one book of the Bible that made me ill when studying it, which was the book of Judges.
 - ii. This wasn’t due to the fact that Israel fell into sin but what types of sin they seemed to continually go into.
5. As we “Bring Back To Remembrance” the time of the Judges let us find that which should spurn us on to giving God the glory and that which should help us to draw closer to God.

I. The Time Of The Judges

- A. Historically speaking...
 1. This timeframe lasts from the death of Joshua to the installation of Saul as king over Israel.
 - i. **Js 24:29–I Sa 7:15-17**
 2. This period of time is marked with constant trouble because...
 - i. READ: **Jg 1:27-2:10**
- B. The sin cycle pattern
 1. With great consistency the Israelites fell into a patten on sin.
 - i. Israel would serve the Lord
 - ii. Israel would fall into sin, specifically idolatry
 - iii. Israel would become enslaved or about to become enslaved.
 - iv. Israel would cry out to the Lord to save them.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- v. God would raise up a judge.
 - vi. Israel would be delivered.
 - a. READ: **Jg 2:11-19**
- C. The sin of idolatry
- 1. The number one sin Israel kept going back to was that of idolatry.
 - i. Baal (**Jg 2:13**)
 - a. This was the main god of the Canaanite people and idol God struggled the most trying to keep Israel away from.
 - ii. Asherah or Ashtaroth (**Jg 6:24-32**)
 - a. This was the chief goddess of Tyre and referred to as the “lady of the sea.”
 - iii. Dagon (**Jg 16:23-30**)
 - a. This was the chief agricultural god of the Philistines.
 - b. Samson destroyed the temple of Dagon.
 - 2. Why did Israel keep going back to idols?
 - i. Because it allowed Israel to do “what was right in his own eyes.”
 - a. **Jg 17:6; 21:35**
- D. Thus...
- 1. Israel continued to go back to that which allowed them to do whatever they wanted or felt like and as a result each generation became worse and worse.
 - i. **Jg 2:19** “But whenever the judge died, they turned back and **were more corrupt than their fathers**, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.” (emphasis mine)

II. The Time Of The Church

- A. Like the Israelites of old the church, in many areas, has found itself seeking its “own eyes” rather than God’s
- 1. Far too many churches today have gotten caught up in things like...
 - i. Making additions to God’s prescribed worship
 - a. Mechanical instruments
 - 1. **Ep 5:19** “addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart”
 - 2. **He 7:14** “For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.”
 - b. Differing days for the Communion
 - 1. **Ac 20:7** “On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread...”
 - ii. Immorality
 - a. Idolatry (Gambling)
 - 1. **Co 3:5** “Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”
 - 2. How many congregations hear nothing against things like the lottery, bingo, i.e. gambling?

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- b. Fornication
 1. **Mt 19:9** “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery.” (ASV)
 2. How many congregations do not hear the truth concerning what the Bible teaches on divorce and remarriage?
2. The church needs to learn from the Israelites of old and not seek their own understanding.
- B. The church must focus...
 1. Not on its “own eyes.”
 - i. Only fools rely on their own selves.
 - a. **Pr 12:15** “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes...”
 - b. **Pr 16:25** “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”
 2. On the “eyes of God.”
 - i. Because God’s Word is the light in a world of darkness.
 - a. **Ps 119:105** “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
 - ii. Because God’s Word is the truth in a world of lies.
 - a. **Jn 17:17** “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”
 - iii. Because God’s Word is teaches us what He delights in.
 - a. **Je 9:23-24** “...Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”
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- C. Thus...
 1. If the church does what is right in its own eyes it will become worse and worse with each generation.
 - i. **II Ti 4:3-4** “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren, as we “bring back to our remembrance” the time of the judges let us look to and learn from them.
 - a. Let us be a people that give God the honor and glory He deserves and let us look not to our own eyes for righteousness but rather let us draw near to God through by getting to what delights Him.
2. Question: Are you seeking each day to “delight the LORD” with all your heart?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?

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3. Invitation

- a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**