Times of the Judges

SAMSON & RUTH

Monday, November 16

Reading: Judges 17:6 / Ephesians 6:10-20

Ephesians 6:10 *"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power"*

One of the most popular stories during the Judges period is the of Samson. He is definitely a man of his times! That God would choose a man like Samson to judge Israel tells us something of how low His people's spiritual life had fallen. Samson's birth and mission had been announced by the Angel of the Lord. He had been set apart to God as a Nazarite. He had been given supernatural strength to conquer God's enemies. And yet Samson is driven by his carnal desires which draw him into wrong relationships and cycles of revenge.

The story of Ruth reminds us that even during this dark period of Israel's history, God was still quietly working to fulfill His plans. There were still godly people like Boaz and Ruth who followed God. While there are elements of a beautiful love story, the story focuses on Naomi and her journey through despair to rejoicing. It sets the stage for God's plan of salvation to continue.

Between the two, Samson is really the weak one who takes God's gifts for granted and his life ends in tragedy. Ruth is the strong one who through heartache and lose remains dedicated to her mother-in-law and her God and her story ends in gladness.

As we read these two stories, may we discover how to avoid failing and learn how to be steadfast in God's strength through difficult times.

LESSON: Ephesians 6:10 tells us to "be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power."
What does this passage tell us we need to do to follow this command?
What does it mean to stand firm against the enemy?
What do the various parts of God's spiritual armor protect?
Why does this description of the armor of God conclude with a focus on prayer?