Times of the Judges

INTRODUCING THE JUDGES

Monday, November 9

Reading: Judges 19-21

Judges 21:25 (NKJV) *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

Sin's Spiral

The period of the Judges has much to tell us about our society and faith today. Moses had warned them to "listen to the voice of the Lord your God, to keep all His commandments, to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 13:18).

However, the tribes of Israel quickly forgot the ways of God and did what was right in their own eyes. This led to spiritual decay and moral depravity. It also led to God's judgment!

> **Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.**
> **To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.**
> **A haughty look, a proud heart, And the plowing of the wicked are sin.**
> **(Proverbs 21:2-4 (NKJV)**

The judges God raised up to rescue His people were full of flaws and often added to the sins of the people. The nation was caught in a cycle of sin that was spiraling out of control.

The closing chapters of Judges (19-21) tell a horrifying story that shows how horrible the morals and attitudes of the Israelites had become during this period. From the wickedness of the Benjamite men of Gibeah to the callous attitude of the Levite toward his concubine, we see how far God's chosen people had strayed from God's commands. All this ended in war and the near extermination of an entire tribe of Israel.

"In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit" (Judges 21:25). Not only did Israel have no human king; they had abandoned their true King – God Himself! They were living for themselves and doing whatever they wanted to do.

Our country today compares well to this dark time of Israel's history. It is a time when God is being driven out of the public forum, sin is celebrated, and many churches are weak and ineffective in reaching their society for the Lord.

As we read the stories of Judges, let's look for keys to strengthen our own lives and witness. Let's look for things to avoid and principles to adopt so we can reach our dark world for Jesus Christ.