

# **Instruments of Redemption**

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by

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## **Judges 10:6-18**

<sup>6</sup>Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord. They served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites and the gods of the Philistines. And because the Israelites forsook the Lord and no longer served him, <sup>7</sup>he became angry with them. He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and the Ammonites, <sup>8</sup>who

that year shattered and crushed them. For eighteen years they oppressed all the Israelites on the east side of the Jordan in Gilead, the land of the Amorites. <sup>9</sup>The Ammonites also crossed the Jordan to fight against Judah, Benjamin and Ephraim; Israel was in great distress. <sup>10</sup>Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord, “*We have sinned against you, forsaking our God and serving the Baals.*”

<sup>11</sup>The Lord replied, “*When the Egyptians, the Amorites, the Ammonites, the Philistines, <sup>12</sup>the Sidonians, the Amalekites and the Maonites oppressed you and you cried to me for help, did I not save you from their hands? <sup>13</sup>But you have forsaken me and served other gods, so I will no longer save you. <sup>14</sup>Go and cry out to the gods you have*

*chosen. Let them save you when you are in trouble!”*

<sup>15</sup>But the Israelites said to the Lord, “*We have sinned. Do with us whatever you think best, but please rescue us now.*” <sup>16</sup>Then they got rid of the foreign gods among them and served the Lord. And he could bear Israel’s misery no longer.

<sup>17</sup>When the Ammonites were called to arms and camped in Gilead, the Israelites assembled and camped at Mizpah. <sup>18</sup>The leaders of the people of Gilead said to each other, “*Whoever will take the lead in attacking the Ammonites will be head over all who live in Gilead.*”

We've seen it again and again throughout the book of Judges; the children of Israel desert Jehovah, to worship gods which were not gods. Wood, stone, carvings and altars; the work of men's hands, worshipped by idolaters.

When God turned His back on Israel, the peoples He had told Israel to remove from the promised land – to utterly destroy – warred and pillaged their territories.

They would cry out to the Lord, and He would hear their cries and send a judge; delivering them out of all their troubles. He called them back to Himself: altars were torn down, Asherah poles were hewn. Sacrifices made.

But every time, Israel prostituted herself again with the gods of the peoples they

failed to destroy; which Jehovah had instructed them to do.

This story is no different. What is God like, that He would continue to pursue the heart of a people for Himself, from within a humanity bent on the worship of self-made gods.

These nations: Moab, Sidon, Ammon, Amalek, Philistia; they were meant to be destroyed in the same way that Jericho had been obliterated – entirely. Their evil practices shouldn't even have been around them anymore; but they had neighbors they shouldn't have had.

**1 Corinthians 15:33** relates the principle God intended to “not” be an issue for Israel moving into Canaan...

<sup>33</sup>Do not be misled: *“Bad company corrupts good character.”*

But Israel had pagan neighbors, and they plunged in with them. In the past, Israel had played both ends of the stick, mixing who they worshipped, and when.

Now however (**vs. 13-14**) the Lord has had it with Israel.

<sup>13</sup>*But you have forsaken me and served other gods, so I will no longer save you.* <sup>14</sup>*Go and cry out to*

*the gods you have chosen. Let them save you when you are in trouble!”*

At least for that particular generation of Israel, they hit bottom. And when that happens, you cry out for all you're worth, to the God you know. And because He is the God you know (and who knows you) there is an immediate cessation of all idol worship, and a humble returning back to the altar of Jehovah to plead for salvation.

It's true, Israel suffered greatly under the onslaught of the east/west press of both the Ammonites and Philistines.

We are not told in this particular chapter, how the Lord chose to deliver Israel out of their oppression, but we know it's coming when in verse 16, God confesses,

*“And he could bear Israel’s misery no longer.”*

Something Benson mentioned at the end of his commentary was,

*...(A)s our personal Helper especially, we must know God. Hearing His call to ourselves we must lift the standard and go forth to the battle of life. Who can serve his family and friends, who*

*can advance the well-being of the world, unless he has entered into that covenant with the Living God which raises mortal insufficiency to power and makes weak and ignorant men instruments of a divine redemption?<sup>1</sup>*

## **PRAYER**

**1** Benson Commentary. biblehub.com Judges 10

