

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon by Ray Reynolds

YOU BE THE JUDGE: A SERIES ON THE BOOK OF JUDGES

Lesson Three = Get The Led Out!

Judges 3:7-4:3

Introduction: In our last few lessons on the book of Judges we have noted the downward spiral of the children of God and the danger of compromise with God's enemies. The Israelites needed leaders and fast! But they also needed people who were willing to be led! God decided to raise up some very interesting leaders, to say the least. I believe that sometimes the traits that make us different are the very traits that God desires to make us useful for His glory. As we study each of these Judges notice the characteristics of God's leaders and the repetitious cycle that followed despite their hard work and sacrifice. Safety is in sight for the people of God but will they forfeited God's favor again, or have they learned their lesson? Let's study together

Discussion:

I. Othniel the Obedient (vs.7-11)

- A. Sin: Apostasy (v.7)
- B. Slavery: Cushan-rishathaim (v.8)
- C. Suffering: Cried to the Lord (v.9a)
- D. Salvation: Othniel's Victory (v.9b-10)
 - 1. His qualification
 - 2. His preparation
- E. Silence: 18 years (v.11)

II. Ehud the Eerie (vs.12-30)

- A. Sin: Evil in the Lord's Sight (v.12a)
- B. Slavery: Eglon of Moab (v.12b-14)
 - 1. The alliance
 - 2. The capitol
- C. Suffering (v.15a)
- D. Salvation: Ehud's Deception (v.15b-29)
 - 1. Eglon assassinated
 - 2. The army routed
- E. Silence: 80 years (v.30)

III. Shamgar the Scrappy (3:31, 4:1-3, 5:6)

- A. Suffering: War with Philistines (3:31, 5:6)
- B. Salvation (3:31)
 - 1. Shamgar kills 600 men with a sharp stick
 - 2. The son of Anath is powerful and mighty
- C. Sin: Evil in the Lord's Sight (4:1)
- D. Slavery: Jabin, Sisera(4:2)
- E. Silence: 20 years (4:3)

Conclusion: It's important to note that every limitation is God's preparation. God does His best work with difficult situations and people. We have to be led. God chose interesting characters to lead His people. Would you criticize or follow? What happens next? We will see