J U D G E S Chapters 1 – 21 #21

We see Judges being compiled in its present form for the people of Israel after they returned from the Babylonian exile in the sixth century BC. The main effort was to save Israel from its oppressors and from its own transgressions and to show that the hardships that they had endured had been due to their infidelity to the covenant with God.

1. 1:21 Why do you think the tribe of Benjamin didn’t remove all the evil from its inherited surroundings? Can modern man drive evil from their surroundings?
2. 2:1-5 Do you think this may be a clue why Israel didn’t get the remainder of the Promise Land?
3. 2:11-23 You’d think Israel would learn. How could they not know they were drifting away from the Lord’s way? But it has come to past and we see it, can learn from it and is it possible we may get a glimpse of the future? Is it possible to follow in God’s footsteps without instructions?

4. 3:31 Bonus: What is an Oxgoad?

1. 4:9 and 5:1-31 What is different about past massagers compared to what we are seeing now?
2. 6:36-40 Does it amaze you that Gideon is testing God and God allows it? Or is he testing?
3. 7:13-25 Do you understand this to mean Gideon had an army of 300?
4. 9:1-57 What kind of a leader is Abimelech?
5. 12:1-7 Could this be like the old saying “A house divided cannot stand by itself?”
6. 13 thru 16:31 Bonus: What purpose do you think was the story of Samson?
7. 19:1 Do you think it strange a Levite taking a concubine?
8. 19:2-9 What would you do today if your daughter was taken from you and came back home?
9. 19:22 Does it seem sacred that the Levite is protected in a fellow Israelite’s home and yet evil knocks?
10. 19:24-30 Does it appear that accent old habits are appearing again? After all this evil has never been seen after leaving Egypt and what does that say about the Tribe of Benjamín? What’s happening to this part of the world?
11. 21:1-25 Are the Israelites shrewd, patriotic or what? What type of messages come out of this chapter? (Think about it and write your own notes to discuss at class.)

Next week is the Book of Ruth with 4 chapters and 1 Samuel with 1-15 chapters. I think the story of Ruth may be small but like a stick of dynamite. So far, we see intermarriage of Israelites and Gentiles being problematic. The story of Ruth demonstrates that our hearts, the Temple of God takes presentence in Israel and in marriage too. CCC489, 1611

1 Samuel highlights the beginning of the monarchy in Israel from the Divine appointment and anointing of Saul as the first king. CCC 1544, 2578