



Name: _____

WEEK 19

May 5

Judges Ch. 3

The book of Judges records the story of Israel, who entered the land of Canaan, the land of rest, but did not enjoy rest and lived in suffering. In this respect, this story seems to be the story of many Christians who enter the joy of the Lord and peace in Jesus but fail to enjoy His joy and peace in their daily lives. Verses 5-7 of this chapter show the stages of Israel's decline in the land of Canaan.

- 1) Verse 5: The people of Israel (.....) among the Canaanites and other Gentile tribes.
- 2) Verse 6: They took their daughters as wives, gave their own daughters to their sons, and served (.....).
- 3) Verse 7: They (.....) the Lord their God, and (.....) the Baals and the Asherahs.

Ch. 4

After Ehud died, Israel again did evil before the Lord. Then God handed Israel over to Jabin, king of Canaan. Jabin, who had 900 powerful iron chariots, severely mistreated Israel for 20 years. In their suffering, Israel cried out to God (vv. 1-3). Whom did God appoint as a judge to save Israel?

- It is quite interesting that the judge whom God raised up to save Israel from Jabin (and his powerful army including 900 iron chariots) was a woman. A prophetess and the wife of a man. Here, a heroic warrior like Shamgar or Samson would have been more suitable as the judge. But God, in His wisdom, raised up a woman who had no military background as a judge. What is important is not our conditions and qualifications, but our faith in God's promise and His character, and our actions (obedience) that follow.

May 6

Ch. 5

This chapter is a song sung by Deborah and Barak after they destroyed the Canaanite king Jabin and his army commander Sisera in chapter 4. How does chapter 5 repeatedly describe the cooperation between the tribes of Ephraim, Benjamin, Zebulun, Issachar, and Naphtali (verses 14-15, 18) who participated in this work? (Vv. 2, 9)

Ch. 6

The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and He gave them into the hands of Midian for seven years, and Israel suffered in poverty due to Midian's raids. During this time, God appeared to Gideon and called him a 'mighty warrior'. Ironically, based on his actions, Gideon seems to have been a timid and fearful person.

- 1) Verse 11: A man who threshed wheat in a winepress so as not to be caught
- 2) Verse 15:
- 3) Verse 27: A man who slaughtered a bull at night and cut down an Asherah pole without anyone knowing

May 7

Ch. 7

This chapter records the battle and victory between the 135,000 Midianite soldiers (8:10) and Gideon's 300 warriors. God went down to Gideon, who was filled with fear before the battle, and let him eavesdrop on the conversation of the Midianite soldiers (verses 9-11). One soldier told him about a dream in which a lump of (.....) rolled into the Midianite camp and the tent collapsed. His friend interpreted it as (.....), meaning that God had given Midian and all its camp into Gideon's hands.

- The barley bread symbolizes Israel, who had been deprived of their normal food (wheat) at the time and were surviving on barley bread. Victory is not determined by numbers or size. God tells Gideon that the warriors who gathered around Gideon, "are too many (verse 2) ... the people are still too many (verse 4)." What is important is not the number, but the attitude of humbly following God's words.

Ch. 8

Gideon faithfully fulfilled his role as a judge, but his ending was bitter.

- 1) Verses 24-26: He collected gold (became greedy for wealth)
- 2) Verse 27: (Gideon made an idol)
- 3) Verses 30-31:

Ch. 9

This chapter records the incident in which Abimelech, the son of Gideon's concubine, killed 70 of his brothers except Jotham. Jotham, the only survivor of Abimelech's massacre, tells the parable of the tree (verses 7-15) to warn the people of Shechem against making Abimelech their king. What kind of tree is the tree that Abimelech is referring to?

- Unlike the olive tree and the fig tree, we can see the greed and arrogance of the thorn tree. The end of a person who abandons the position and mission entrusted to him and is puffed up in pursuit of greed is miserable and unhappy.

Ch. 10

This chapter introduces Tola and Jair, minor judges who succeeded Abimelech. Tola ruled for 23 years and Jair ruled for 22 years, and the peace of the time is expressed by the words, "Jair's sons, thirty, rode on thirty donkeys and each ruled thirty cities." However, this explanation also shows that the peace of that era was giving way to laziness, complacency, and the accumulation of wealth and power (by the leaders) (verse 6). What are God's two feelings toward the Israelites who continue to repeat the repetitive cycle of Judges (sin - oppression - cry - salvation)?

1) Verse 13:

2) Verse 16:

('He was troubled in his heart' means 'his patience reached its limit', 'he could not bear it any longer')

Ch. 11

Judge Jephthah was a man of many sorrows. His mother was a prostitute, and he was abandoned by his half-brothers. He ended up hanging out with social outcasts. On the other hand, Jephthah was a man of prayer (v. 11), and was also a man who had some understanding of the Scriptures (vv. 12-28). Jephthah hoped that God will help him win the war against Ammon, but he made a wrong vow. Because of the vow, who does he end up offering as a burnt offering?

(This shows that Israelites were affected by Moabites, who worshipped their god Moloch by offering up their children.)

Ch. 12

In this chapter, who is the tribe that complained and protested to Jephthah because they were jealous of Jephthah's achievement in winning the war against the Ammonites?

- In fact, these were the same tribes that protested to Gideon, who fought against Midian in chapter 8. This incident led to a civil war between the Israelite tribes, and the tragedy of fratricide. They failed to participate in the war against Ammon; rather, threatened and mocked their own people. Pastor Tim Keller advised, "If we were as much committed to unity in the church as we are to good relations with the world, and if we were willing to overlook the insults we receive, our communities would be much less divided and much more loving."

Ch. 13

This chapter records the birth of Samson, which is similar to the birth of Jesus (v. 5). What did Manoah, Samson's father, ask for after receiving the angel of God's announcement of Samson's birth? (v. 8, 12)

- Father Manoah's question is also a question that we, as parents, should ask God and practice every day.

Ch. 14

This chapter records Samson's marriage to a Philistine woman despite his parents' opposition. His intention was to take advantage of this marriage to attack the Philistines (v. 4). However, such intention cannot justify his violation of God's law forbidding marriage to a Gentile woman. Samson's life ended tragically because of foreign women. Write verse 16:23.

"Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to rejoice, and they said, 'Our (.....) has given Samson our (.....) into our hand.'"