



Awaiting the King Series: Part 1: A Desperate Need, Judges 13-16 Mike Halpin ~ November 12, 2017

Intro: If you sit in a moving car holding a book to your face you won't see your destination in the mountains ahead...

God's grand plan toward which He is working all things is to bring in His Kingdom; an eternal kingdom in a New Heaven and earth in which God Himself is King in the person of Jesus Christ.

I. Samson— Fallen Judge

Story of Samson from Judges 13–16

Judg. 13:2–25 There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children. 3 And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. 4 Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, 5 for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines." ...24 And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the LORD blessed him. 25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

- 4X the Spirit of the LORD came upon Samson: 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14.
- God answers Samson's prayers, 15:18-19; 16:28-30

One moral failure after another:

- Judges 14:1-3 marriage to a Philistine woman instead of a Jew as the Law prescribed, Deuteronomy 7:3-4.
- Judges 15:1-6 personal vendettas against those who displease him.
- Judges 16:1, 4ff immoral relationships
- Judges 16:4ff gives in to Delilah; the LORD leaves; blinded and made to grind at a mill.

Judges were inadequate to lead Israel to life with God.

II. The Priesthood Fallen & Brotherhood Failed, Judges 17-21

Judges 17-18 A Levite sells out his priesthood... Judges 18:30-31 & 1 Chronicles 26:24

Judges 19-21 A Levites wife and civil war as the nation descends to a new low.

As Judges winds down we see a betrayal of one relationship after another:

- Priests forsake God
- Violation of hospitality
- Violation of marriage
- Violation of bonds of brotherhood
- Violation of the liberty of others

God's people have become as bad as the likes of Sodom and Gomorrah. Both the Judges and Priesthood meant to shepherd the people toward God are leading the people away from God.

Israel needed something more, and Judges tells us 4X what it was: God's people need God's Promised King to come and establish God's righteous Kingdom.

- Judg. 17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
- Judg. 18:1 In those days there was no king in Israel.
- Judg. 19:1 In those days, when there was no king in Israel...
- Judg. 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

As Judges winds down we know that the nation's moral decline is connected to lacking a King.

III. Our Own Times—

We're tempted to look back at those times and moral depravity and think we're qualitatively different than those people; but are we? Is our fallenness less fallen than people in the days of Samson & the Judges?

- Leaders within the Protestant Churches:
- Evangelical leaders:
- Hospitality:
- Wars:
- Human trafficking:

Our age is characterized by people doing what's right in our own eyes too.

- 2 Timothy 3:1–5

If we're not careful we mistake our own small storybook for the entirety of what God is up to.

IV. David Came/Jesus Comes—

The stories in Judges, Ruth and 1 Samuel lead us step by step to the birth and then the reign of King David. But godly as he was David turns out to be a sinner in need of a greater Savior, just like the rest of us.

We're meant to be looking for, anticipating the fulfillment of God's promises for Jesus' return as King.

- 1 Corinthians 1:7... as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ
- 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
- Titus 2:11–13 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
- 1Pet. 1:13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

God wants us to anticipate our destination; to set our hearts and affections on Him, His King and Kingdom.