


A Few Good Men and Women  
Chapter 8




Joshua Dies at 110

His whole generation is gathered to their ancestors.

A new generation grew up who knew neither the Lord or what He had done for Israel.

They did evil by worshiping the Baals.

The worshiped the various gods of the people around them.



God' in His anger gave into the hands of raiders, who plundered them.

Even though God raised up judges, they did not listen to them.

Scripture tells us: "Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them."

Whenever God raised up a judge, he was with that judge and God saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived.




In Judges we see a cycle.

A judge appears, God is with the judge and peace reign.

Judge dies, people do evil in the eyes of God and God allows them to be overtaken.

God empowers certain individuals who once again lead Israel back.




Interesting how God leads Israel through a woman named Deborah.

Look at page 105-106. What is the twist in this account?

Victory secured there is a forty year period of peace.

Once again Israel does evil in the sight of the Lord and the Lord puts them into the hands of the Midianites.




Bottom paragraph of 107 the Israelites cry out once again.

What did the prophet tell them?

God informs them that their problem is a spiritual one.

How often can we relate to what is happening in the book of Judges?



Gideon


He encounters an angel, who carries on a discussion with him.

How does the angel convince Gideon that God has sent him?

Read bottom of 108-109

God leads Gideon in battle with a small army of three hundred men.

Another interesting battle strategy is unveiled through Gideon.




Once again the land has peace for forty years.

Interesting Scripture tells us, no sooner had Gideon died and Israel prostituted itself to the Baals.

God delivers them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.

During this time God raises up Samson.



The story of Samson is one of the better known stories of Scripture.

Some of remember the movie made about Samson in the sixties.

Samson offers some twists for us when we think about judges God raised up.

The spiritual compromise of the Israelites continue throughout this time.

Samson ends up killing more Philistines in his death than he ever did living.



Samson led Israel for twenty years.

When you add up the years during the time of the judges it covers a considerable span of time.

We encounter in Judges a few good men and women.

We also encounter the spiritual inconsistencies of the people of God.

Reminds us how spiritually bankrupt we can be as the people of God.