

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of February 19, 2023

THEME: "Judges"

DIVINE PLAN

Sunday Read Judges 2:16-22

"Nevertheless the Lord raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them." One possible division of God's historical plan for His earth would be five divisions: The Age of the Patriarchs, the Age of the Judges, the Kingdom Age, the Church Age, and the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. The book of Judges details God's workings in and through His people after the death of Moses and in their arrival to the Promised Land. God had used Moses to lead them out of bondage in Egypt and through the wilderness to arrive at His destination for them. Joshua was His choice to lead them into the Promised Land. For whatever reason, the Israelites became increasingly secularized and lost the blessings and power of God. However, being God's chosen nation, God did not give up on them! God chose faithful servants to be judges and provide leadership to get His people back on track. God's Divine plan will prevail!

CHOSEN LEADER

Monday Read Judges 6:12-15

"And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor." Having been disobedient to the law of God, the Israelites fell victim to some of the neighboring people. God, however, would not give up on His plans for His chosen people. God decided to pick a man whom He knew would be faithful to His ways. God knows the ones whom He can trust to seek and accomplish His will, many times choosing people the world might overlook. God knows each of us and knows our personalities, our talents and our capabilities. He also knows those who will be loyal to Him and His ways! An important personality trait for God to use a person is humility; pride is a disqualification! Gideon is a good example! He showed his humble spirit when approached to lead God's people. He could not imagine himself to be a leader of the people of God; but God knew him better than he knew himself!

GOD'S ASSURANCE

Tuesday Read Judges 6:36-40

"And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew. And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground." God was very patient with Gideon in trying to reassure him that he could get it done. Gideon needed reassurance to gain the confidence that he could do what God was asking him to do. God did not give up on Gideon because of his hesitation, but did what was necessary to give Gideon the confidence that this was indeed God's calling for him. Gideon first asked God to soak a fleece while causing the ground around it to remain dry. God did just as Gideon asked. But Gideon was still uncertain. He needed further assurance. Our loving and patient God was willing to accommodate! When Gideon asked God to do just the opposite; have the fleece remain dry with the ground

around it soaking wet. God did just that, and Gideon's doubt was removed. How great is our God, and He is so patient!

DIVINE INTERVENTION

Wednesday Read Judges 7:19-22

"So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands. And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon. And they stood every man in his place round about the camp; and all the host ran, and cried, and fled." God's strategy is always best! It may be out of the ordinary, but it is always successful. God is omnipotent and needs only for His people to trust Him to do great things for them and through them. By yielding to God's leadership, we are assured of success, no matter how threatening the circumstances may be. Can you imagine what the people may have thought when God was reducing the army down to three hundred to fight against a strong enemy. When God is in charge, victory is assured. We read in I John 5:4: *"Faith is the victory."* Nothing is too hard for our God!

REJECTION

Thursday Read Judges 11:1-2

"And Gilead's wife bare him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they thrust out Jephthah, and said unto him, Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou art the son of a strange woman." There are times when a believer not only feels rejected, but actually is rejected by those in whom he may have trusted and assumed to be supportive. Those situations are never too hard for God; He is always trustworthy. Feeling rejected is no problem for God; as a matter of fact, it is an opportunity for Him to show us His love and wisdom. He knows our circumstances! If someone is undeservedly rejected, that person's faith in God will prove Him to be reliable. Nothing surprises God, and He shows Himself strong when times seem too tough to cope! The devil will try to create division among believers, and being rejected gives God the opportunity to show Himself strong in this battle against the devil. The important thing is to have faith. God will make a way!

RECRUITED

Friday Read Judges 11:6-10

"And they said unto Jephthah, Come, and be our captain, that we may fight with the children of Ammon." The very people who expelled Jephthah now asked him to come back and be their leader. They recognized his faith and his God-given leadership ability. How satisfying it must have been to Jephthah to be recruited by the very people who had previously rejected him. To his credit, Jephthah carried no malice and was seemingly glad to respond to their invitation to return and provide the leadership for which they were looking. Always it is good to have a forgiving spirit and carry no malice or bitterness. God honored that attitude and used Jephthah to accomplish His will.

GOD-GIVEN POWER

Saturday..... Read Judges 16:28-30

"Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once...Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. And Samson said, Let me die with the

Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein." Samson was another Israelite whom God used to do the impossible. He did compromise in that he did not honor his parents in making a choice for his wife. God did not give up on Samson because He knew that Samson eventually would show his loyalty to God and be God's instrument to destroy the enemy. God did give Samson unusual strength and amazing wisdom and courage to defend God and His people.