

Judges - Commentaries by Norman W. Berry

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 2, Judges 1, Verses 1-15, Day 31 - (1:1-15)

Back we go to the Old Testament to see the next step in the pictures (in OT) of the developments in a believer's life. Genesis — New life; Exodus — coming out into a new place; then worship; then our daily problems; then Joshua — our warfare against the enemies of the truth; now "Judges" — God testing His people to see if they will live in all the blessings God has given them. What does He see? Only failure, despising the land, disobeying — these 2 Things go together. So God punished them. What did they do? They cried to Him. So what did God do? Sent a "Deliverer." When he died, what did they do? Turned back to disobedience. And so on and on through the book we start to read today. Now when we apply these lessons to our life, don't forget, we believers in the Lord Jesus, have the Holy Spirit living in our body. He is the power which enables us to obey. When we finish this book, we'll be reading about our mistakes and disobedience too, in 2nd Timothy. Moses, the great leader of God's people through the wilderness, is dead. Joshua the brilliant leader in the promised land, and the conqueror of it, is also dead. They had both been chosen by God to do their particular work. All that God had commanded Moses, had been written down in a book. And we have that book in our hand, the five books of Moses — Genesis to the end of Deuteronomy. So remember that the people of whom we are now going to read, had the same five books (Deut. 12:1).

The people had promised (Josh. 24:24) that they would obey God, and therefore His Word!

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 2, Judges 1, Verses 16-36, Day 32 - (1:16-36)

Today we start to read the sad story of Israel's behavior. Through instructions given to Moses, the tabernacle had been built and the priests established to be the go-between for God and His people. The priests became careless and disobedient, so that God could not use them. He never comes to the end of the instruments (people or things) He can use. His new instruments are now the judges — the name of our book. Whether in the days of the judges, or today, power (in the believers) is lost only through disobedience to God and His Word. The children of Israel were troubled later on by these same enemies. But here you are reading why — they did not drive them out of the land which God had given them. They left some, and these were the causes of the trouble later on. This teaches us that Satan will overcome by trickery in telling us that we don't need to be out and out for the Lord — so long as we are morally good, everything will be fine. But this is how we are deceived. Faith in God and obedience to His Word will bring personal joy, peace and blessing as we shall see as we go on in this book. And as we will also find in our own life as we go on for the Lord.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 2, Judges 6, Verses 1-10, Day 37 - (6:1-18)

V.1-10 Each enemy is, for us, a type of our spiritual enemies today. The Midianites are a picture of earthly things — they could be our house, car, garden, job or even our children. The first 13 words tell us the reason for what happened in this chapter.

V.6 They did not realize that their own disobedience was the real reason. Disobedience so often is the reason for our trials and troubles. The Amalekites a picture of the flesh or the old nature in us. Keep a note of these enemies and what each one means — instructive for your life.

In the first verse, the Lord sent the Midianites because Israel did not drive them out of the land. In the 8th verse, the Lord sent a prophet to stir up their conscience. In the 11th verse, the Lord sent an angel to raise up a deliverer. The Lord loves to take us out of our misery, but only when we turn to Him.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 2, Judges 6, Verses 11-40, Day 38 - (6:11-40)

V.11-18 God saw only one man, Gideon, whom He was going to use to deliver Israel from their enemies. Because of their disobedience, Israel had sunk to the lowest condition since they arrived in the glorious land.

V.11 Threshing wheat is separating the kernel from the chaff — a picture of separating truth from error (Prov. 25:4; Jer. 15:19; 23:28; 2 Cor. 6:14). We doubt if there is any more important lesson in our life to learn than this one. "To depart from evil is understanding" (Job 28:28). When we confess our sins to Him, He hears, He delights to bless us (Prov. 28:13).

V.13 True statements. It was not that God had made a mistake, or that all this happened by chance. They disobeyed and brought trouble on themselves.

V.15-18 Gideon sees his weakness. This is good. But he needs to look away to God's power, and he does.

V.19-20 If Gideon had not been threshing the wheat, he probably wouldn't have had any wheat ready for a meal-offering to God. Unless we are living to please the Lord, we won't be able to do what it says in Hebrews 13:15.

V.33-40 God graciously proves His power to Gideon.

clickbible.org