

## Judges - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Daily Sacrifice, February 9 (2:6-7)

“And when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel went every man unto his inheritance to possess the land. And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord, that He did for Israel”— Judges 2:6, 7.

IN God’s dealings with Israel we may see exemplified great principles that have valuable lessons for us. As we go back over church history we can see how similar conditions have prevailed. Times of declension have been followed by seasons of revival, generally brought about by certain leaders whom God has raised up to call His people back to Himself. It has been their responsibility to emphasize some line of truth that had been ignored, to a great extent, for years. Luther re-affirmed the truth of justification by faith; the Wesleys, regeneration and the witness of the Spirit; Moody and others, the preciousness of free grace; and so with others of God’s messengers. The great danger came in the next and following generations, when those who did not have to purchase the truth at the expense of suffering and persecution readily surrendered it and turned back to what their fathers had left for Christ’s sake.

— Frederick W. Faber.

Daily Sacrifice, February 10 (2:15-16)

“Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, as the Lord had said, and as the Lord had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed. Nevertheless the Lord raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them”— Judges 2:15,16.

DISOBEDIENCE to the Word of God always results in misery and bondage. God will not be trifled with.

He rightfully demands wholehearted obedience and unqualified submission to His will. Happy for us if we recognize this as our first responsibility, and so yield ourselves to Him as those bought with a price, who are His, both by creation and redemption. Failing in this, we bring sorrow upon ourselves and dishonor upon the name of the Lord. But when failure comes in, there is a way back through repentance and confession. If we thus judge ourselves, God will give deliverance in His own way and time,

—John Morrison.

Daily Sacrifice, February 11 (6:15-16)

“He said unto Him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house...And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianite: as one man”— Judges 6:15, 16.

GIDEON’S words did not reveal what psychologists today call “an inferiority complex.” It was rather a true humility—a realization that in himself there was no power to deliver Israel. He came of a poor and insignificant family. He himself recognized his own helplessness. He did not feel there was anything of which he could boast. But he was to learn that God’s strength is made perfect in weakness. Obedience was all that was needed. “If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31) Gideon had the promise of the divine presence to rely upon. His future history tells us how remarkably God fulfilled His word in using this country lad to destroy the power of haughty Midian and to deliver and guide Israel.

—I. Watts.