

BIBLE BOWL -2016

Lesson #8 –Four Judges

Scripture Reading: Judges 3:12-14

Introduction:

1. The vicious cycle of sin the Israelites were caught in.
2. There are lessons to be learned from the Judges.
3. In this lesson we will examine four Judges and learn from their experiences.

I. JUDGE OTHNIEL -3:7-11

A. THE TROUBLE ARISES

1. They forgot the Lord and served the Baals and Ashtoreth
 - a. They were not to have any other gods before the Living God –Ex 20:3
 - b. The Baal –“the sun god”
 - c. Ashtoreth –“the moon goddess”
2. God had sold them into the hands of the king of Mesopotamia. They served him for eight years.

B. GOD ANSWERS THEIR CRIES FOR HELP

1. God sends Othniel.
2. Othniel is Caleb’s nephew who later became his son-in-law (Joshua 15:13-19)

II. JUDGE EHUD -3:12-30

A. THE TROUBLE ARISES

1. The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord
2. The Lord sold them into the hands of Eglon the king of Moab.
3. They served for eighteen years

B. EHUD CONQUERS THE MOABITES

1. Ehud brought tribute to the king and had established trust with him.
2. He brought a secret message from God
 - a. Everyone else was sent out from their presence
 - b. Ehud stabbed him with a double-edged dagger
3. After the battle was won, the land had rest for eighty years -3:30

III. JUDGE SHAMGAR -3:31

A. HIS GREAT MIGHT

1. He killed six-hundred men with an ox goad
2. He did so without the great strength of Samson

B. APPLICATION

1. One does not have to have the great strength of Samson or the Wisdom of Solomon to accomplish great things for the Lord.
2. One only has to put their faith and trust in the Lord and be motivated to action.

IV. JUDGE DEBORAH -4:1-24

A. THE TROUBLE ARISES

1. The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and were sold under the hand of Jabin.
2. Jabin had 900 chariots of iron –4:3 (We come back to this point)

B. GOD DEFEATS THEIR ENEMY

1. Deborah tells Barak to go out and conquer the enemy –vs. 6-7
2. Barak refuses to go without her; therefore the glory of battle would go to a woman

3. The chariots of iron were no match for the mighty hand of God -13-16
 - a. Some criticize the Bible for Judges 1:19. They believe God could not overcome chariots
 - b. This verse shows the fallacy of their perspective.

C. DEATH OF SISERA –vs. 17-22

1. He fled away on foot to the tent of Jael
2. He thought he was in a place of shelter
3. She drove a tent peg through his temple while he slept.

Conclusion:

1. Our promise land is heaven itself
2. We are not called upon to kill physical enemies, but rather to defeat sin in our lives.