## <u>Title: The Judges – Sermon 12: Sermon notes</u>

Scripture: Judges 21:24-25 Date preached: June 5th 2022

#### Scripture: Judges 21:24-25

24 So the children of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family; they went out from there, every man to his inheritance. 25 In those days *there was* no king in Israel; everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes.

## 24 그리고 이스리엘 시람들도 그 곳을 떠나 각자 자기 집으로 돌아갔다. 25 이 당시에는 이스리엘에 왕이 없었으므. 로 시림미다 자기 생각에 좋을 대로 하였다.

#### **Introduction**

Today we bring our study of the twelve judges to a close. It's been quite a journey. Did you have a favourite judge? I particularly liked the story of Ehud. Did you learn anything new or surprising? I certainly hope that you did. I know that I have enjoyed examining this fascinating period of Israel's history. I hope that it will encourage you to go and read the book for yourselves. There are many other interesting parts that we passed over in this brief study.

As I said on a number of occasions the judges as a whole were flawed heroes. Men, and a woman who God raised up to lead and judge His people for a period of time. At times, they were courageous, faithful and brave. Characteristics worthy of our admiration and emulation. At other times the judges reveal many of the worst aspects of human nature. We read about moments of extreme violence, cruelty and brutality. Judges is filled with tales of murder, death, assassinations, betrayals, sexual immorality and idolatry. It is of course these things that typically capture our attention. But we would be misguided if we allowed our focus or interest to only rest on these sordid events. This book is not included in God's revelation to only tell us about man's wickedness. We only need to turn on our TV's to find out about the wickedness of human beings.

So what should be our takeaway from a study of the book of judges. The book has many things to teach us. But I think our overall take away from this book should be as follows. Our loving and merciful God is sovereign over all things. We love and serve a God whose love for His people means that He wants to save them. We see again and again throughout judges that He sends them a saviour or a deliverer. Though they do not deserve His mercy, He simply will not abandon them and see them consumed by darkness. And we today should take great comfort from that. We have a tendency to look down upon the people of the past and think that we are so much better. We believe that we would never act in the foolish or naive ways they did. Time, I'm afraid for a reality check. We are not so different from the ancient people of Israel. We might not be building Asherah poles on Suri Mountain, but we still construct our own idols. Thankfully we serve a God who does not change.

He was loving and merciful to His people in ancient Israel, and He remains the same to us, his people today. The judges were human men and one woman. Like all human beings they were fallible and flawed. They did bad as well as good things. But with God's empowering they did mighty deeds and saved their people. We remember them today and thank God for His grace in providing them.

Today I intend to do three things.

1. Review the second part of our study of Samson

3. Look at how the book of judges closes

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## **Review**

Before we bring our study to a conclusion let us review what we looked at last time. Last time we finished our study of Samson. We considered three events of his life. Firstly we looked at his interactions with a prostitute. We then looked at his time with Delilah. Finally we considered his dramatic death. Let me touch on those three areas again.

연구의 결론을 내리기 전에 지난 시간에 실패본 내용을 검토해 보겠습니다. 지난번에 우리는 삼손에 대한 연구를 마쳤 습니다. 우리는 그의 인생에서 세 가지 사건을 고려했습니다. 먼저 우리는 매춘부와 그의 상호 작용을 실펴 보았습니 다. 그런 다음 그가 Delilah 와 함께한 시간을 실펴보았습니다. 마침내 우리는 그의 극적인 죽음을 고려했습니다. 이 세 영역에 대해 다시 말씀드리겠습니다.

## His interactions with a prostitute

Samson was a complicated man. At times, he showed great faith in God and trusted that He was watching over him. We see this for example when he allowed himself to be taken as a bound captive

to the Philistines. He had complete faith that God would provide a means for him to escape. At other times he seems to have been wholly consumed by his fleshly desires. His passions repeatedly led him into bad situations. His encounter with the Philistine prostitute is one such example. She lived in the coastal city of Gaza. Gaza was one of the most important Philistine cities and was the site of a major temple to their god Dagon. It was a place that Samson should have avoided. But Samson was frequently driven by his lustful passions. He met a prostitute and spent the night with her. The people of Gaza soon learn that their bitter enemy is in the city. They close the gates and lie in wait to capture him. Learning of their plan Samson sneaks out, and on his way rips out the city gates which he carries up a nearby hill.

As we grow and mature in life we look back at our experiences and learn from them. The other morning for example I was trying to balance my empty coffee cup, my cereal bowl, my cell phone and a book on one hand. I ended up dropping them all. I learned that there is a limit to how much I can balance on one hand. So Samson should have learnt something from his experience in Gaza with the prostitute. Firstly that Philistine women were off limits and secondly that putting yourself in a dangerous situation only brings trouble. Did Samson learn? Sadly not. Let us turn to consider his experiences with Delilah.

#### Samson and Delilah

The story of Samson and Delilah is probably one of the best known bible stories. Its appeal goes way beyond believers and it has inspired writers, artists and movie makers for centuries. We don't know the ethnic background of Delilah. She lived in valley of Sorek and seemed on very good terms with the Philistines. This may have meant that she herself was a Philistine, or that she

was an Israelite who had adopted the culture and pagan religion of the Philistines.

She also may have been a prostitute, but the bible does not confirm this. Samson fell deeply in love with this woman. Sadly she did not feel the same way about him. In fact when she was approached by the rulers of the Philistines she was happy to betray him for money.

They wanted her to discover the secret of Samson's mighty strength. After three rounds of lies and failures to restrain him she finally persuades Samson to reveal the truth. He tells her that if his hair is cut off his strength departs. This was of course part of his Nazarite vow. As we said last time the hair is not really the important thing here. The hair is merely symbolic of the vow one has made to God. So what is important here is that God withdraws his empowering of Samson. After lulling Samson to sleep Delilah calls someone into the room and Samson's head is shaved. Upon waking

Samson believes his mighty strength can again save him. This time to his horror he discovers that the Lord had left him. Samson is captured, his eyes are gouged out and he is imprisoned. Let us turn next to Samson's dramatic death.

#### Samson's death

A blind and dispirited Samson finds himself in a Philistine prison. They have given him the job of wheat or grain grinder. All day long he ground in those no doubt hot and inhospitable conditions. Now the rulers of the Philistines were very pleased to have captured their enemy. They decide to hold a festival during which they will sacrifice to their god Dagon. I think we can imagine a carnival like atmosphere. The pagan temple is packed with close to 3000 people. At some point during the festivities someone says that it would be good fun to have Samson come out and perform for them. Perhaps they wanted to see this once mighty man do a funny dance. So Samson is led out by a boy to perform. After performing Samson asks to be propped against two of the pillars to rest. Two important things had happened whilst Samson was in prison. Firstly his hair had begun to grow back. Secondly it seems as if he had restored his relationship with God. He prays that God in His mercy grant him one final favour. He wants the strength to bring the temple down on all of the Philistines. God empowers him and the temple collapses killing all those inside. This brought an end to Samson and the forty years that he had judged the nation of Israel.

The book of judges does not end with the death of Samson. There are a number of other important events that occur. But they lie beyond the scope of this study. You will have to go and discover them for yourself. Let us then consider what lessons we can learn from the judges.

부여하고 성전이 무너져 안에 있는 모든 사람들이 죽습니다. 이로써 삼손과 그가 이스라엘 민족을 사사한 사십 년이 미그리 . 미그리 그리그 그리그 미그 그리그 . 다른 여러 중요한 이벤트가 발생합니다. 그러나 그것들은 이 연구 의 밤위를 벗어납니다. 직접 가서 발견해야 합니다. 그러면 재판관에게서 어떤 교훈을 배울 수 있는지 고려해 보겠습 니다.

#### Lessons from the judges

God of course did not give us the accounts of the 12 judges just for interesting reading. Whilst they do make for interesting reading we are expected to look beyond their literary or historic merits. We are expected to learn and grow by reading, thinking about and applying what we read to our own lives. I have four lessons we can learn from the book of Judges.

#### **<u>1 Peace and rest comes only through being faithful</u></u>**

God had made what on the surface was a simple deal with the Israelites. If they were faithful to Him then He in turn would bless them. What an amazing deal that is. In exchange for absolute love and devotion the sovereign God of the universe will watch over us. God had never let them down before He had promised to deliver them from slavery in Egypt. He fulfilled this promise by providing Moses to guide the people out of slavery. He had promised to provide for them in the wilderness. He fulfilled this promise by every day providing for their physical needs. He had promised them their own land. He fulfilled this promise as led by Joshua they conquered and settled the promised land. But instead of being grateful and faithful to God His people rebelled and rejected Him. We saw this pattern repeated time and time again throughout Judges.

What was God's response? He withdrew His protective hands and allowed their peace and rest to disappear. God's response to rejection is to allow people the opportunity to follow their hearts wherever that takes them.

It as if God throws up His hands and says, "Well if this is really what you think will make you happy then go for it." When the people of Israel decided to reject Yahweh in favour of other gods and goddesses what did God do? He allowed them to devote their worship to these worthless stone and wooden images. What was the outcome for the people. Did these pagan gods bring peace, rest and prosperity? They instead brought the opposite.

Today we live in a world in which we are encouraged to think that our future depends upon our own efforts. We can look forward to good long lives if we work hard, save money and invest in the future. Now I do believe that working hard, saving and being careful with what God provides is important. However we must never forget that earthly treasures are never secure or stable. The value of money can go both up and down. Property or possessions can be lost in theft, fire or natural disasters. Investments can go badly. Companies can go bankrupt. Businesses can fail. So the only real security we have in this life is having a strong and secure relationship with God. His promise is rock solid. His precious children have His guarantee of eternal life in his presence. So let us never forget that true and lasting peace and rest comes only through being faithful.

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#### 2 Disobedience always brings judgment

Sometimes criminals seemingly "get away" with their crimes. The police for a variety of reasons cannot catch the person who committed the crime. At other times the police may have strong suspicions about who did it but lack the evidence needed for a conviction. On other occasions criminals go on the run and are not caught before they die and can face judgement. But the truth is that bad people do not ever really away with their crimes. Even if they die here on earth without facing punishment they will soon enough stand before a holy and righteous judge in the Lord Jesus Christ. The reality is that disobedience always brings judgment.

We see this vividly detailed throughout the book of judges. The people disobeyed God, did what they wanted and were judged and punished. Again and again this happened without the people seeming to learn from their past experiences.

But perhaps we should not judge them too harshly. After all we also commonly find ourselves in a similar cycle. How often do we live in direct rebellion against God. How often are we guilty of picking and choosing which commands of God we like and rejecting the ones we don't. Often it is only when God acts and we face His discipline that we repent and turn back to Him.

So let us take the warning, and learn from those living through the period of the judges. God will always punish rebellion against Him. This is not because God is mean or spiteful. Quite the opposite. He punishes and disciplines us because He loves us. The exact same principal applies with our earthly parents. We don't punish our children because we are mean or vindictive. We punish our children to bring them back into line and for their own good. What we want is their willing, loving obedience. That is exactly what God wants from us. He disciplines us to bring us back to Him so that He can bless us. Far better though for us to be good and obedient children that do not need punishment or discipline. Let us then never forget that disobedience always brings judgement.

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수 없습니다. 다른 때에는 경찰이 누가 범죄를 저질렀는지에 대해 강한 의심을 갖고 있지만 유죄 판결에 필요한 증거 가부족할 수 있습니다. 다른 경우에는 범죄자들이 도주하다가 죽기 전에 잡히지 않고 심판을 받을 수 있습니다. 그러 아주 예수 그리스도 안에서 거룩하고 의로운 재판관 앞에 설 것입니다. 불순종은 언제나 심판을 가져온다는 사실입니 다. 우리는 이것을 사사기 전체에서 생생하게 볼 수 있습니다. 백성들은 하나님께 불순종하고 자기가 원하는 대로 행 우리는 그들을 너무 기획하게 판단해서는 안 됩니다. 결국 우리도 일반적으로 비슷한 주기에 있습니다. 우리는 얼마나 지주 하나님을 직접적으로 반약하며 살고 있습니까? 우리는 얼마나 지주 우리가 좋아하는 하나님의 명령을 선택하고 선택고 우리가 좋아지 않는 명령을 거부하는 죄를 받히고 있습니다. 종종 우리는 하나님이 행동하시고 우리가 그 분의 징계를 받을 때에만 회계하고 그분께 돌아갑니다. 그러므로 우리는 경고를 받아들이고 사사 시대를 살았던 사람 들어게서 배우도록 합시다. 하나님은 항상 그분에 대한 반역을 벌하실 것입니다. 이것은 하나님이 비열하거나 악의가 있기 때문이 아닙니다. 정반대 그분은 우리를 사랑하시기 때문에 우리를 벌하시고 징계하십니다. 똑같은 원리가 자상 의 부모에게도 적용되니다. 우그는 비열하게 나보복적이기 때문에 이야물을 처벌하지 않습니다. 우그는 아이들이 지신 의 이익을 위해 다시 일어서도록 벌을 줍니다. 우리가 원하는 것은 그들의 지발적이고 사랑에 찬 순종입니다. 그것이 바로 하나님께서 우리에게 원하시는 것입니다. 그분은 우리를 축복하실 수 있도록 우리를 그분께 다시 데려오도록 징 계하십니다. 우리에게는 벌이나 징계가 필요하지 않은 책하고 순종적인 재녀가 되는 것이 훨씬 낫습니다. 그러므로 불 순종은 언제나 심판을 기져온다는 사실을 결코 잊지 맙시다.

## 3 God is faithful even when we are not

This is one of the most powerful messages we should take from our study of judges. If God were as fickle as human beings we would be in trouble. Fortunately for us God is ever faithful to those He has chosen to save. We could hardly blame God if He had thrown up His hands in despair as the people of Israel again turned from Him. After all He had done for them once again they decided that Baal seemed like a better bet than Yahweh. But time and again we see throughout judges that God remains faithful to His faithless people. He provided them judge after judge to deliver them. Let us then be grateful that our loving heavenly father remains faithful even when we are not faithful.

이것은 우리가 재판관에 대한 연구에서 취해야 할 가장 강력한 메시지 중 하나입니다. 신이 인간처럼 변덕스럽다면 우리는 고경에 차했을 것이다. 다행스럽게도 하나님은 그분이 구원하기로 선택한 사람들에게 언제나 신살하십니다. 이스리엘 백성이 다시 하나님께로부터 돌아섰을 때 하나님께서 절망 가운데 손을 내밀어 주셨더라면 우리는 거의 하나님을 비난할 수 없었을 것입니다. 그분이 그들을 위해 다시 한 번 하신 모든 일 후에 그들은 비알이 야훼보다 더 나온 것 같다고 결정했습니다. 그러나 우리는 하나님께서 그의 믿음 없는 백성들에게 여전히 신실하시다는 것을 재판관들을 통해 볼 수 있습니다. 그분은 그들을 구원하기 위해 사사들을 그들에게 주셨습니다. 그러면 우리가 신실하지 않아도 미디니다.

## 4 Human beings are imperfect saviours look instead to the perfect saviour

The twelve judges given to us in the book of judges are an interesting bunch. We have mighty and brave warriors. Judges who were comfortable wielding swords and who were fearless in battle. We had judges who showed great cunning and intelligence. We had judges who were great motivators and leaders of men. We equally had judges that were greedy and self serving. We had in Samson a man who was unable to control his fleshly passions. What I am really saying is that because all of the judges were human being they were all flawed. Like all fallen people they were sinners.

We should also remember that their acts of delivering the people from their oppressors was

temporary. The bible tells exactly how long each judge held that position. The longest reign as judge was the 80 years of Ehud. That was why every generation needed another judge. But in the book of judges we see a foreshadowing of a future deliverer to come. Unlike the flawed judges we have studied in this study this future deliverer would have no flaws. He would be able to provide the perfect salvation for God's chosen people. His salvific work would be a once and for all defeat of our enemies. There would be no need for any further deliverers.

So the ultimate take away from the book of judges is this. Though we are sinful and fallen, God in His loving grace has provided for us the perfect saviour. The perfect deliverer to the bondage we were in to sin and death. This deliverers name is the Lord Jesus Christ. He came to earth, lived the perfect life and died on the cross in our place, as our substitute. He did all the work necessary. Once and for all time. And if you want the free gift of salvation all that is required is that you confess your sins, repent and then put your faith and trust in the person of Jesus Christ. Let us then never take our eyes off our perfect deliverer.

Let us then bring our study of the book of judges to an end by seeing how the book closes.

□□□□□□□□□□ 12 명의 사들은 흥미로운 무입니다. 우리에는 강력자 용감한 전사들이 있습니다. 검을 편히 휘두르며 싸움에 겁이 없는 판시들. 우리에게는 훌륭한 교활함과 지성을 보여주는 판시들이 있었습니다. 우 리에게는 위대한 동기이자 인간의 지도지였던 판시들이 있었습니다. 우리에게는 탐욕스럽고 독단적인 판시들도 있었 이 인간이기 때문에 그들 모두가 흠이 있다는 것입니다. ㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁㅁ . 압제자에게서 백성을 구출한 그들의 행위는 일시적인 것임을 기억해야 합니다. 성경은 각 판사가 그 자리를 얼마나 오래 유지했는지 정확하게 알^줍니다. ┉ ◘─── □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ 0 0 0 0 년이었습니다. 그렇기 때문에 모든 세대에는 다른 판사 가 필요했습니다. 그러나 사사기에서 우리는 장차 올 구원자의 예표를 봅니다. 우리가 이 연구에서 연구한 결함 있는 판사와 달리 이 미래의 전달자는 결함이 없을 것입니다. 그는 하나님의 택한 백성에게 완전한 구원을 베풀 수 있을 것 이었습니다. 그의 구원 사업은 우리의 적들을 단번에 완전히 패배시키는 것이었습니다. 더 이상 전달자가 필요하지 않 퇴하의 인당사 의ዜ가 해 재재한티 고있 시죠 시15우 홈비 귀이것이 으흣교 인작두둥 인지사사 서비고. 귀니입것 을 우리를 위해 완전한 구세주를 마련해 주셨습니다. 우리가 죄와 시망에 속박되어 있던 종에서 완전한 구원자이십니다. 이 구원자의 이름은 주 예수 그리스도아십니다. 그분은 이 땅에 오셔서 완전한 삶을 사셨고 우리를 대신하여 십자가에 서 우리의 대속물로 돌아가셨습니다. 그는 필요한 모든 일을 했습니다. 영원히, 그리고 당신이 구원의 거저 주는 선물 을 원한다면 당신이 당신의 죄를 고백하고 회개한 다음 예수 그리스도의 인격을 믿는 믿음과 신뢰만 있으면 됩니다. 그러므로 우리의 완전한 구원자에게서 결코 눈을 떼지 맙시다. 그런 다음 그 책이 어떻게 마무리되는지 보며 사사기에 대한 연구를 마치도록 합시다.

# 24 So the children of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family; they went out from there, every man to his inheritance. 25 In those days *there was* no king in Israel; everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes.

Most of us prefer books, films or TV dramas to have a happy ending. We like it when things are resolved in a positive or uplifting way. We want the hero to win, the boy and girl to live happily ever after, the bad guy to be beaten or sent to jail. Sadly the book of judges does not have a happy ending. We would like it to end with the people once again repenting and finally and permanently turning back to their loving heavenly father. Sadly this is not what happens.

In verse 25 we read that **in those days there was no king in Israel**. This is the fourth time that the writer has used this expression. We might read this and think it refers to a human king. This is

certainly true. One of the problems that began to manifest itself at this time in Israel's history was envy and jealousy. They looked around at their pagan neighbours who all had kings and wanted a king for themselves.

They perhaps imagined that things would be much better with a king leading them.

That under a strong king tribal squabbles could be settled and the people would rally around their ruler. Probably they thought that under a strong king they could become a powerful nation. God would eventually allow them to have a king rule over them. He would be Saul and after a good start as king things soon went downhill.

However when we read here at the close of judges that there was no king we need to look beyond a human ruler. The major problem at this time, and still in Israel today is that they do not have the rightful king on the throne. Had they properly respected, worshipped and obeyed God how different things might have been. Instead the people were at best apathetic towards God. They acknowledged His presence but did not really seek to obey and honour Him properly. At worst, they rejected Him completely and turned to the pagan gods of their neighbours. Both of these attitudes are captured in the expression **everyone did** *what was* **right in his own eyes.** Or let me put it another way. Because human beings know what's best we don't need God. It is a rejection of God's perfect standard in favour of what individuals believe is morally right. Naturally God is not pleased when human being act in this way. As a consequence He may decide to withdraw His blessings and sometimes His protection. This is what happened repeatedly to the Israelites. So this, sadly is how this approximately 400 year period of the time of the judges ends.

I wish I could bring things to a close by saying how much better the world is today. However that same description still applies, **everyone did** *what was* **right in his own eyes.** The western world is slowly but surely destroying itself. The reason is very simple, it has rejected God's perfect standards and tried to replace them with the foolish, ever changing ideas of human beings. God's standards have been shoved aside. Christianity is mocked or ignored. The bible is ridiculed and scoffed at. Those that stand up for God's values are called old fashioned or bigoted. So what are Christians to do?

They are to do what they have always been called to do. To stand firmly upon the truth of God's Word. To be loyal and humble servants for the Kingdom. To share the gospel message to a lost and dying world. And to eagerly await the return of their once and for all deliverer. The Lord of Lord and King of Kings; the Lord Jesus Christ.

미나 달리졌을지 모릅니다. 오히려 백성들은 기껏해야 하나님께 무관심했습니다. 그들은 그분의 안재를 안정했지만 진 정으로 그분에게 순종하고 그분을 공강하려고 하지 않았습니다. 최악의 경우 그들은 그분을 완전히 거부하고 이웃의 이교도 신들에게로 향했습니다. 이 두 가지 태도는 모두가 자기 소간에 옳은 대로 향한 표정에 고스란히 담겨 있습니 다. 아니면 다른 방법으로 말하겠습니다. 인간은 무엇이 최선인지 알기 때문에 신은 필요하지 않습니다. 그것은 개인 이 도덕적으로 옳다고 믿는 것에 찬성하여 하나님의 완전한 표준을 거부하는 것입니다. 당연히 하나님은 인간이 이런 신으로 행동하는 것을 기뻐하지 않으십니다. 그 결과 그분은 자신의 축복과 때로는 보호를 철호하기로 결정할 수 있습 니다. 이것은 이스리엘 백성에게 반복적으로 일어났던 일입니다. 그래서 슬프게도 약 400 년의 사사 시대가 이렇게 동일한 설명이 적용되지만 모든 사람이 지기 소견에 옳은 대로 행했습니다. 서구 세계는 느리지만 확실하게 스스로를 피고하고 있습니다. 그 이유는 아주 간단합니다. 하나님의 온전한 표준을 거부하고 어리석고 사시각각 변하는 인간의 관념으로 대체하려 했습니다. 하나님의 표준은 옆으로 말라났습니다. 기독교는 조롱당하거나 무시당합니다. 성경은 조 롱과 조롱을 받습니다. 하나님의 가치를 옹호하는 사람들을 구식 또는 편협하다고 합니다. 그러면 그리스도인들은 무 엇을 해야 합니까? 그들은 항상 히도록 부름 받은 일을 해야 합니다. 하나님의 말씀의 진리 위에 굳게 서게 하소서, 왕 국을 위한 충성스럽고 겸손한 종들 잃어버린 세상과 죽어가는 세상에 복음 메시지를 전하기 위해 그리고 그들의 단 신도는 수혜주 그니시 안양만 면시이금주 I인금주 인시시되기 이전적 기재재 올아올 전자였다. 한번형 도