

JUDGES

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Week 13: Peace, Oppression, & Strange Beginnings

Scripture Reading: Judges 10:1 – 11:11

1. A time of peace (verses 1-5)

- Tola is the SIXTH judge
 - He saves Israel from itself
 - He was also a legal judge
 - *Deborah brought peace on the battlefield, Tola on the homeland*

- Jair is the SEVENTH judge
 - He also provides peace
 - He has a large family
 - His family follows OT law
 - *Deuteronomy 17, Psalm 20:7*

- Both minor judges in Chapter 10 are a wonderful, refreshing conclusion to the aftermath of Abimelech from Chapter 9!

2. A time of oppression (verses 6-18)

- Verse 6 tells us two things:

- A major judge is coming soon
- There is A BIG HEART issue – serving foreign gods from foreign lands
- God responds appropriately in verse 7
 - *Abandoning responsibility*
- In verses 10-12, after 18 years of oppression, the Israelites finally call out to God
- God responds in a way we wish to never hear: *“I will save you no more, let your gods save you in the time of your distress.”*
- In verse 15, the Israelites KNOW God has answered justly
 - *Sad over the consequence, not the actual sin*

3. A time of new leadership (verses 11:1-11)

- Off to an interesting start in verse 1
- Jephthah is the EIGHTH judge
 - He is banished to Tob, becoming a leader of organized crime & cowardice
 - The elders of his former home (Gilead) recruit him to be their leader
- **HOPE** at the end of verse 11, differentiating him from Abimelech: God-centered lifestyle
- **What do we learn from Judges 10:1 – 11:11?**
 - *God provides peace in many forms*
 - *God does not tolerate idolatry*
 - *God always remains faithful*
 - *God can use people with strange upbringings*