

JUDGES

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Week 20: The Beginning of the End

Scripture Reading: Judges 16:23 – 17:13

1. The death of Samson (verses 23-31)

- Verses 23-25 = their hearts “*were merry*” that Samson has been captured – offering to Dagon
- For only the second, recorded time in his life, Samson prays in verse 28. **Two things to see:**
 - Samson calls out to God
 - Samson prays for personal deliverance
- Imagining the **chaos of verses 29-30**
- **Verse 31** is interesting because it tells us **two things:**
 - Samson’s mother had more children after her barrenness in Chapter 13
 - His family still cared about him
- **Closing thoughts on Samson:**
 - His death was different than Jesus’ death:
 - His downfall brought about his disobedience
 - His death brought limited deliverance, Jesus’ brought “once for all” deliverance
 - His death was similar to Jesus’ death
 - Unlike Jesus, Samson was both a savior and sinner

2. The theft of Micah

(verses 17:1-6)

- **Noticeable change** in direction/focus for the last 5 chapters of Judges:
 - Chapters 1-16 External dilemma Judges intervened
 - Chapters 17-21 Internal dilemma Absence of God
 - *God is only mentioned 1 time in Chapter 20*
- **Micah** steals money from his mother, but then returns it
- They make an idol, which Micah puts in his own shrine in verse 5. **Five issues with verse 5:**
 - Unauthorized sanctuary location
 - Personal ephod
 - Household gods
 - Son appointed as priest
 - Son wasn't a direct descendant from Aaron

3. The adoption of a Levite

(verses 7-13)

- In verse 7, we meet our second new character: "*The Levite*"
- The **strange agreement** in verses 10 & 11
- Verse 13 reveals Micah's motivation behind everything
 - 1 Corinthians 15:10