

Breakdown of a Culture Judges 17 - 21

I. Analysis

- A. Breakdown of the Family 17:1-6**

- B. Breakdown of the Religious Community 17:7-13**

II. The Breakdown of the Culture (Chapters 18-21)

- A. The Acceptance of idolatry led to the collapse of values and standards**
 - a. The breakdown of society begins with a deterioration of the home
 - b. The co-mingling of idolatry with true religion weakened their influence

- B. The Disintegration of Standards are Characterized by:**
 - a. Massive migration of the tribe of Dan & resettlement by brute force (ch.18)
 - b. Permissive behavior accepted by family and community (19:1-21)
 - c. Wickedness and perverse behavior practiced and defended (19: 22-28)
 - d. The insensitive care of the dead (19:29-30)
 - e. Civil war between previous allies and relatives (20:1-48)
 - f. Callous and brutal treatment toward neutral parties (21:1-24)

- C. The only Hope for the Country was for a King to be coronated.**
 - a. There was no king – that the people recognized
 - b. God and His Word had been rejected
 - c. Confusion reigned when God was abandoned

III. Takeaways from the Book of Judges

The theme for the series was Obedience brings Blessings, Disobedience brings Discipline!

The Seven R's of the Judge's cycle were:

Rest – Enjoying the blessings of the land of Promise

Rebellion – The people divorcing themselves from God, following idolatry and becoming captives to sin.

Retribution – God withdrawing His protection, delivering them into the hands of enemy oppressors

Repentance – Israel crying to God for help, wanting to turn from their self-destructive, sinful practices.

Restoration – God raising up judges to deliver His people from oppression

Revival – Israel is led back to a life of fellowship with Him.

Repeat of the cycle

As we have studied Judges, it would be wise to ask ourselves, why do we disobey God's word, even though we understand the blessing of obedience and the consequences of disobedience? (Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:23)

- If Israel had been broken before the Lord, they would not have been broken by the Lord.

National Remedies:

- A. Moral decline begins when we choose to disobey God's written word. The church needs to be studying God's Word daily.
- B. Human desires are overruled by Divine agendas. Remember God is Sovereign over both the wicked and the righteous. He is in control when all seems out of control.
- C. We live in a hostile culture; may we determine to follow the Lord and His instructions.
- D. A good government will act justly not arbitrarily, while weak leadership can act rashly and with vindictiveness. Pray for godly, courageous people to serve in our government

Personal Remedies:

- A. Moral decline begins when we choose to disobey God's written word. We personally need to be reading God's Word with our families.
- B. Moments of desperation are used by God to bring us to opportunities to accomplish God's work! Look for the opportunities around us!
- C. God is more concerned that you learn to trust Him than for you to understand Him. (Prov. 3:5,6)
- D. God is more concerned about the big picture (eternal life) than the particular details of your present life.
- E. God is more concerned about your character than your comfort.

"If comfort and wealth are evidences of holiness, our Lord was not holy." (W. Wiersbe)

"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation." (Romans 5:3-4 NLT)

- F. The greatest hope we have is for the King of Kings to reign in our lives and return soon!