

Episode #607 Judges 44 – The Judges Rejected

I. In the book of Judges, we have a brief record of the early history (the first centuries) of the history of the land of Israel. We see the leaders God chose, judges, who ruled under Jehovah, the King. Through the lives and work of these judges, we can learn about God's works and ways.

II. Samuel was the last and, in some ways, the greatest of the judges. He finished the mission Samson only started and delivered Israel from the Philistines all his days. However, when he became old he promoted his sons as judges, who perverted justice and took bribes. Israel feared the Ammonites, and came to Samuel to demand a king to reign over them like the other nations. One problem: Jehovah was already their King! This was nothing but a rejection of Him.

III. I Samuel 8:1-22. The last judge rejected, along with the King he serves.

- A. I Samuel 8:10-18. Yahweh tells them what this king will be like. The warning: stronger central government will mean a loss of their freedom. It still means the same today!
- B. I Samuel 8:19-20. Note their foolish desires. Where do they think the king will get his soldiers from: thin air? Their fear was what instigated this: I Samuel 12:12. Note that they did not trust the LORD, Who had before always delivered them, 12:11.
- C. I Samuel 8:21-22. Samuel tells Jehovah they will not hear His warning. He dismisses them all to go back to their homes.

IV. I Samuel 9:1-27. Samuel and Saul.

- A. I Samuel 9:1-4. We are introduced to Saul, a man of the tiny tribe of Benjamin. He was handsome and tall, a kingly figure. His father sent him on a mission to look for lost donkeys.
- B. I Samuel 9:5-10. The plan to go to the man of God. Was a present necessary? Notice the lack of knowledge of the ruler of Israel.
- C. I Samuel 9:11-14. The man of God is revealed to be Samuel. Because there was no place Yahweh had chosen to place his name at this point, they were sacrificing on the high places. Samuel would bless such sacrifices.
- D. I Samuel 9:15-17. Samuel had been told in advance he would meet the LORD's choice for the replacement king this day.
- E. I Samuel 9:18-20. Samuel tells Saul that his donkeys are found, but there is a far more important matter: the kingship!
- F. I Samuel 9:21. Saul can hardly believe it, Benjamin being such a small and insignificant tribe, and his own family not important in the tribe.
- G. I Samuel 9:22-24. Saul is given the place of honor at the sacrifice.
- H. I Samuel 9:25-27. Samuel gets Saul alone to share with him the important matter of the kingship.

V. I Samuel 10:1-16. Signs for Saul.

- A. I Samuel 10:1. Anointing was a sign of being set apart to God for special service.
- B. I Samuel 10:2-7. Signs for Saul: God reveals a sequence of events that is about to happen to him.
- C. I Samuel 10:8. Crucial instructions. At some point Saul will precede Samuel to Gilgal. He must wait seven days until Samuel come to offer offerings and give him instructions what he should do.
- D. I Samuel 10:9-13. Saul receives the Spirit of God and becomes a prophet, speaking the words of God.

E. I Samuel 10:14-16. Saul tells about visiting Samuel, but not about the kingdom.

VI. I Samuel 10:17-27. Saul is proclaimed king.

A. I Samuel 10:17-19. Samuel calls Israel together. He reviews the history and shows them again what they are doing: rejecting God by demanding another king.

B. I Samuel 10:20-21. They go through the tribes one by one, probably by Urim and Thummim. Benjamin is chosen, the family of Matri, Saul son of Kish.

C. I Samuel 10:22. Saul hides among the baggage, so frightened is he of being made king.

VII. Samuel was the last and greatest judge, but the people did not trust the LORD's protection through him and demanded a human king. God chose a king from the unlikely tribe of Benjamin: the striking Saul. This was the king the people demanded instead of Jehovah. Do we stubbornly demand our own way contrary to God's will? Do we realize how wicked this is? Praise God He is gracious!