

Episode #610 Judges 47 – The Future of the Judges

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 great judge over Israel, but the people demanded a king like the other nations. God gave them Saul, a man after the peoples' desires. However when God tested him for faith he failed by not waiting for Samuel to make sacrifices to the LORD. When God tested him for obedience by demanding he wipe out His enemies the Amalekites, Saul failed again, keeping King Agag alive along with the best of the animals and spoil. The LORD told Saul he was rejected as king and He would seek out another king after his own heart, removing the kingdom from Saul to give to another of His choice. Now, we will see how that happened.

III. I Samuel 16:1-13. Jehovah's choice: David.

- A. I Samuel 16:1. Samuel's mourning for Saul went too far. Jehovah had rejected him, so it was no longer appropriate.
- B. I Samuel 16:2-3. Samuel properly judges Saul's attitude: any such action will raise his wrath, and he will not hesitate to murder Yahweh's judge. Notice that Samuel is still the judge in spite of there being a king, I Samuel 7:15.
- C. I Samuel 16:4-5. Notice the Godly fear of the people of Bethlehem.
- D. I Samuel 16:6-7. Eliab is like Saul; he looks the part of a king. But the LORD teaches his man Samuel a lesson: it is not the outward appearance that matters, but the heart.
- E. I Samuel 16:8-11. All Jesse's sons are rejected, but how can this be? There remains one son, the youngest and, by their reckoning, the least important. While the important brothers were at this sacrifice, he was left behind to keep the sheep!
- F. I Samuel 16:12. Notice: after saying appearance didn't matter, the LORD mentions his appearance! Being good-looking may not matter too much, but there is nothing wrong with it either. Did "ruddy" or "reddish" mean he had red hair?
- G. I Samuel 16:13. He is anointed as the next king, and Samuel returns to his capital of Ramah.

IV. I Samuel 19:18-24. David and Samuel.

- A. I Samuel 19:8-17. David is forced to flee from the mad jealousy of Saul.
- B. I Samuel 19:18. David escapes and seeks out Samuel, God's judge.
- C. I Samuel 19:19-20. Saul sends to arrest David, but the Spirit of God stops them.
- D. I Samuel 19:21. Saul sends two more times, with the same result.
- E. I Samuel 19:22. Saul seeks Samuel and David himself.
- F. I Samuel 19:23-24. The Spirit of God does the same to Saul as He had done to his messengers. The saying, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" takes on a new meaning, this time much less flattering to Saul!
 - 1. Note: Samuel never went to see Saul again after I Samuel 15:35. But this was Saul going to see Samuel!
 - 2. The Holy Spirit came on Saul as an enemy! Saul was not "saved" by the Spirit, but stopped from carrying out his evil plan by the Spirit.
 - 3. In Saul's final encounter with God's judge he is defeated and humiliated. God was truly with Samuel, His choice as judge, and not with Saul, the peoples' choice as king.

G. I Samuel 20:1. David leaves Samuel and goes to seek out Jonathan. Perhaps these were Samuel's instructions?

V. I Samuel 25:1. The death of Samuel. Perhaps Saul and David call a truce long enough to both attend the funeral? Saul and David had just called a truce in I Samuel 24 when David spared Saul's life in the cave. Thus the career of the final judge of Israel comes to an end.

VI. I Samuel 28. The mysterious appearance of Samuel when Saul seeks the witch of En Dor. We will not go further into this mysterious event at this time, but wait for a future study of I Samuel, Lord willing.

VII. The Future of the Judges.

A. II Kings 15:5. The judging of Israel was carried out by kings from the time of David on. Would David have been the next judge after Samuel if the people had not demanded Saul?

B. Isaiah 1:26-28. God will restore Israel's judges "as at the first." The days of judges will come again!

C. Isaiah 33:22. This anticipates the kingdom of God. Judge = judicial branch, Lawgiver = legislative branch, King = executive branch. The Lord is them all in His kingdom!

D. Ezekiel 44:15, 23-24. The priests, the sons of Zadok, will act as judges.

E. Matthew 19:28, Luke 22:30. The twelve disciples/apostles will sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

1. Note: a judge for each tribe, rather than one judge for the nation.

2. Note: twelve, just as we have seen "twelve" primary judges in the past!

F. Acts 10:42. The Lord Jesus Christ is ordained by God to be Judge of all the living and the dead.

G. Romans 3:5-6. God will yet judge the world! He is the ultimate Judge.

H. I Corinthians 6:2-3. The saints will judge the world! And angels.

I. II Timothy 4:1. Jesus Christ will judge the living and the dead at His appearing, even His kingdom.

VIII. Samuel was sent to anoint God's next choice as a king after His Own heart, David. Samuel was later involved when David fled to him for help when Saul sought his life unfairly. Saul was finally defeated and humiliated before Samuel. Finally, this great judge of Israel died and was buried with honor by all Israel. From this point on the kings judged Israel, though not always as servants of God. In the future, though, God will restore their judges as at the first. Jehovah Himself will be their judge. The priests, the sons of Zadok, will judge controversies among the people. The twelve disciples will sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Ultimately, the Lord Jesus Christ is ordained by God to be the judge of the living and the dead. Though the days of Israel's judges seem long past, we can be assured that the world will yet see God's judges restored to set His people in order as they did in the past. May His government over this sadly mixed-up world come soon.