



Wednesday
December 23, 2020

Judges

1

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Characteristics of this era 2:16-3:6
 - The people egregiously sinned against God by intermixing with the people with the resulting worship of their gods and abominable practices.
 - God allowed the nations around them to conquer and oppress them.
 - God would not abandon them because of His covenant and moved by His compassion for them would raise up judges to deliver them.

2

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Characteristics of this era 2:16-3:6
 - After the death of the judge the people would return to their sinful ways and the cycle would repeat.
 - God stopped giving the people the ability to drive out the people from the land for two reasons:
 - In order to test the loyalty of the Israelites.
 - In order to give them training for war.

3

Lessons

- The wrath of God executed on mankind as seen in the examples of the Great Flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and the people occupying the Promised Land reveals the devastating nature and impact of sin.
- The necessity of the sacrificial system in order for God to dwell among His people to whom He clearly revealed His standards of righteousness reveals the devastating nature and impact of sin.

4

Lessons

- The description of the era of the Judges as serial failure in following God added to the rest of the history of the Israelites which generally follows this pattern reveals the devastating nature and impact of sin.
- God highlights these historical accounts to make the point that sin has no human remedy. We cannot overcome sin. One had to come Who would overcome sin for us.
 - ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (ESV)

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Lessons

- God highlights these historical accounts to make the point that sin has no human remedy. We cannot overcome sin. One had to come Who would overcome sin for us.
 - Romans 3:21-26 (ESV)

6

The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Othniel 3:7-11
 - The fact that Caleb's nephew is the first judge is an indication of how rapidly the people turned away from following God.
 - Baal and Asherah worship was prevalent among the people of Canaan.
 - Since these are pagan religious practices and therefore the figment of people's imagination, there are significant variations of belief and practice.

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The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Othniel 3:7-11
 - Baal and Asherah worship was prevalent among the people of Canaan.
 - Generally, these were fertility cults that taught that the sexual activity of the god and goddess produced the fertility of the land. One of the popular teachings was that it was the sexual activity of Baal and Asherah that caused dusk and dawn each day.

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The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Othniel 3:7-11
 - Baal and Asherah worship was prevalent among the people of Canaan.
 - These cults involved both animal and sometimes human sacrifices.
 - Ritual sexual activity by the human worshippers was considered to incite the Baal and Asherah to sexual activity that would in turn guarantee the fertility of the land.

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The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Othniel 3:7-11
 - Baal and Asherah worship was prevalent among the people of Canaan.
 - The inherent detestable nature of this cult is seen the belief that Asherah was both the mother and sexual partner of Baal.
 - Baal was usually depicted as a bull or a human figure with horns as a bull.
 - Asherah was depicted with carved trees or poles or sacred groves of trees.

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The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Othniel 3:7-11
 - The pattern of oppression, the rise of a judge, deliverance and a time of respite during the life of the judge is seen here with the 8 years of oppression and forty years of freedom from oppression.

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