



Wednesday  
January 27, 2021

# Judges

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

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
  - God's victory over the invading armies 7:15-8:21
    - Bringing the victory to completion 7:23-8:21
      - Gideon and his 300 men crossed over the Jordan near Succoth in pursuit of the remnant of the Midianite army and their leaders.
        - Weary from the battle they asked for provisions from the people of Succoth and Penuel but were refused because they were not the clear victors at that time.
        - Gideon promises both places that he will return after he secures the victory and deal with them.

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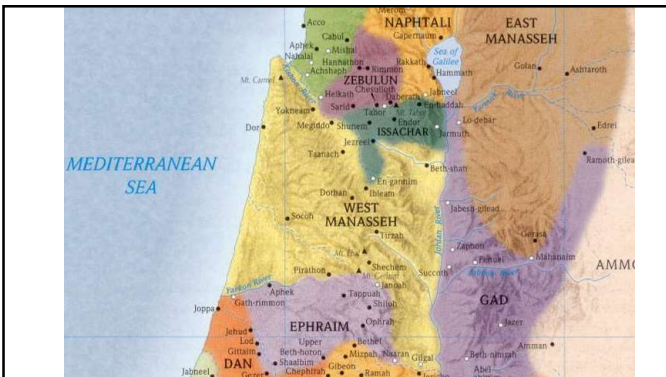
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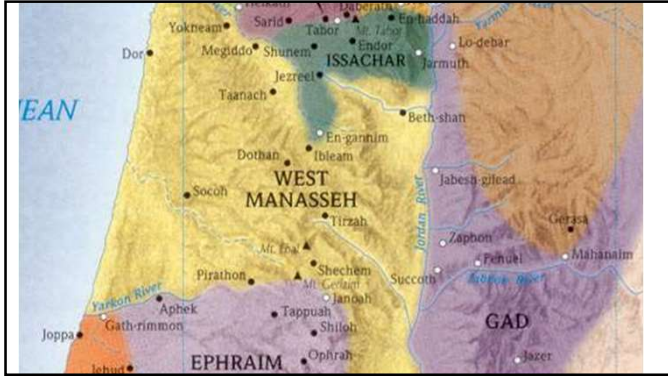
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The era of the judges. 2:16-16:31

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
  - God's victory over the invading armies 7:15-8:21
    - Bringing the victory to completion 7:23-8:21
      - Gideon and his 300 men crossed over the Jordan near Succoth in pursuit of the remnant of the Midianite army and their leaders.
        - Gideon and his men engaged the Midianite kings and the remnants of their army in Karkor.
        - The Midianite kings and soldiers felt they had put plenty of distance between them and Gideon and panicked at the attack and were defeated.

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

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
  - God's victory over the invading armies 7:15-8:21
    - Bringing the victory to completion 7:23-8:21
      - Gideon and his 300 men crossed over the Jordan near Succoth in pursuit of the remnant of the Midianite army and their leaders.
        - Zebah and Zalmunna fled but Gideon pursued and captured them.
        - With Zebah and Zalmunna as his captives Gideon returned and punished the 77 leaders of Succoth and broke down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of the city.

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

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
  - God's victory over the invading armies 7:15-8:21
    - Bringing the victory to completion 7:23-8:21
      - Gideon and his 300 men crossed over the Jordan near Succoth in pursuit of the remnant of the Midianite army and their leaders.
        - Realizing that these kings had killed some of his brothers in the battle, Gideon calls on his firstborn son, Jether, to execute them. This was probably meant as a stinging insult for a young inexperienced man to kill these seasoned warriors and rulers. Jether could not fill this request and the kings requested that they die at Gideon's hand instead.

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

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
  - Aftermath 8:22-35
    - Gideon refused the request that he and his house rule over Israel, rightly pointing out that Yahweh is their ruler.
      - It was always God's plan that Israel function as a theocracy rather than a monarchy.

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

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
  - Aftermath 8:22-35
    - Gideon did ask for them to share the spoils of war in the form of earrings that had been taken from the bodies of the enemy soldiers.
      - From this Gideon made a garment which unfortunately became an object of idol worship.
    - The land was free from oppression for 40 years.

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9

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

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
  - Aftermath 8:22-35
    - Gideon returned home and had 70 sons by his many wives.
    - He also had a son, Abimelech, by a concubine who lived in Shechem. (Jotham refers to this woman as Abimelech's female servant in 9:18).
    - Gideon died at "a good old age".
    - The Israelites again turned to Baal worship and disregarded the family of Gideon.

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10

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

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
  - The rise and fall of Gideon's son Abimelech
    - Abimelech's name ironically means, son of a king.
    - After Gideon's death he appealed to his kinsmen in Shechem to follow him as their leader.
      - Abimelech raised a band of mercenaries from money given from the temple of Baal-Berith and killed all but one of the sons of Gideon
      - Afterward the leaders of Shechem proclaimed him king by an idolatrous shrine.

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

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
  - The rise and fall of Gideon's son Abimelech
    - Jotham, a son of Gideon who had hidden and avoided execution with the rest of his brothers stood on Mount Gerizim and pointed out the disrespect of Abimelech and pointed out how making this unworthy man a ruler over them would be their undoing.
      - The character of a leader is more important than popularity or familiarity.
      - The impact of choosing a poor leader is inescapable.

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12

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

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
  - The rise and fall of Gideon’s son Abimelech
    - God’s judgment is set in motion against Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem for the slaughter of the house of Gideon.
      - God set Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem against each other.
      - The leaders of Shechem set ambushes against Abimelech by trying to make him respond to harassment of travelers.

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13

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

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
  - The rise and fall of Gideon’s son Abimelech
    - God’s judgment is set in motion against Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem for the slaughter of the house of Gideon.
      - Gaal moved into Shechem and prospered there.
        - He openly challenged Abimelech but was betrayed by Zebul the ruler of the city who devised an ambush against him by Abimelech.
      - Gaal was defeated and expelled from the city.

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14

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

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
  - The rise and fall of Gideon’s son Abimelech
    - God’s judgment is set in motion against Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem for the slaughter of the house of Gideon.
      - Abimelech took the occasion of the defeat of Gaal to then kill many people of Shechem and destroy the city.
      - The leaders fled to the house of El-berith for refuge, but Abimelech and his men burned the stronghold with them in it resulting in the deaths of about 1,000 men and women.

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

- Gideon 6:1-8:36
  - The rise and fall of Gideon's son Abimelech
  - God's judgment is set in motion against Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem for the slaughter of the house of Gideon.
    - Abimelech continued his murderous rampage but was mortally injured by a millstone thrown down from a tower by a woman and killed at his request by his armor bearer so he would not die at the hand of a woman.
    - The deaths of the leaders of Shechem and Abimelech completed the judgment of God on them as fulfilled in the curse pronounced by Jotham.

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Lessons

- Beware of blindly accepting the norms of the world around us.
- Wisely choose the direction of your loyalty. (Hint, always go with God.)
- Always remember that God is the Judge, and His judgments are at the right time and in the right measure.

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