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The Daily Bible Reader 2015

APRIL 2015
JUDGES

Judges

Memory Verse: Memory Verse: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. " - Judges 21:25

Schedule

April 1-4
Chapters 1-5

April 5-11
Chapters 6-9

April 12-18
Chapters 10-13

April 19-25
Chapters 14-17

April 26-30
Chapters 18-21

We will be reading through the book of Judges in April. By reading at least one chapter each day you should be able to fin- ish the readings each week. May God bless you as you feast on his Word each day!

The book Judges is a huge contrast to Joshua. In Joshua obedient people conquered Canaan. In Judges an idolatrous and disobedient people are repeatedly oppressed by her enemies. The name "Judges" not only carries the idea of justice and settling disputes, but also means to "liberate" or to "deliver". Judges describes a constant cycle of apostasy, oppression, and deliverance. (Ch. 2:11-23)

The book of Judges is organized along thematic rather than chronological lines. The primary reason for Israel's problems are a lack faith and a failure to drive out the enemies (Ch.2:1-3). Israel vacillates between obedience and apostasy. They never seem to learn lessons from their mistakes. This era is summarized in our memory verse for this month (Ch.21:25).

After the death of Joshua, Israel was ruled by judges for about 300 years, until the united kingdom. It was time of instability and moral depravity. The judges tried to rally the people against the enemy. Perhaps the most interesting judge was Samson, who was endowed with great strength, but had obvious character flaws.

Gideon's victory over the Midianites with 300 soldiers is one of my personal favorites. Gideon stamped out idolatry and led his people in victory. It was a great demonstration of God's power to deliver. However, after this victory, Gideon himself was the cause of idolatry in his own family. (Ch. 8:22-28)

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