

The Book Of Judges Reading Plan Week 7 Review



The story of Gideon is one intense journey. Our readings took us through the conclusion of his life and into the next phase of the story of Israel. Let's review.

Judges 8:13-35

1. Recall the ending of last week's readings told the story of Gideon and the refusal of the people of Succoth and Penuel to help Gideon's army. What was the punishment Gideon gave to these people?
2. We are not told why Gideon gave the death sentence to the men of Penuel. They must have committed some high crime in Gideon's mind. Perhaps they had acted treasonous toward their own people, Israel.
3. Zebah and Zalmunna were two kings of Midian. Why did Gideon have them put to death? Why did Gideon's son not kill the kings? That was a heavy request by Gideon. The 2 Midianite kings, in a sense, bailed the young man out by telling Gideon to kill them himself.
4. Why did Gideon not want to be king?

5. Gideon had been a valiant warrior. However, we are about to see flaws come out which will be costly in the decades to come. In verse 24, what is the danger with Gideon asking for gold and robes from the people?
6. The Ephod was the garment of a high priest. Gideon made a gold garment and places it in his hometown. This was not of God. Why he did this? No word, but it may have been to taunt the people of Ephraim for their lack of support. The Tabernacle was in the territory of Ephraim at Shiloh. What does verse 27 say about this matter?
7. What in verse 30 tells us about Gideon's spiritual downfall?
8. Verse 33 - After Gideon, Israel sinned again. Lesson: Gideon's sins would have an effect on the nation.
9. What are a few lessons you take from the story of Gideon?

Judges 9:1-21

1. Verse 1-6: Abimelech was the son of Gideon through a mistress. What all did his sinister plot lead to?
2. Gideon's youngest son, Jotham, escaped being killed. What do you think Jotham was communicating to the people of Shechem through his parable in verses 7-15?
3. What was his message in verses 16-21?

It is important to note that all these troubles started when Gideon was at ease from the fighting. He took many wives and had a son by his mistress. Throughout the Old Testament the practice of polygamy always led to deep trouble for families and the nation. We will pick up the rest of Abimelech's and Jotham's story next week.