

## Rebellion and Redemption – Part 4

### Conflict and Crisis in the time of the Judges

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on Rebellion and Redemption, studying the theme of the Great Controversy between good and evil. Our topic today: Conflict and Crisis in the time of the Judges.

Scripture Theme Song: I will praise You, O LORD (Ps. 9:1-2)

- 1) The big picture during the time of the Judges in Israel (dates?)
  - a) Judges 17:6; Judges 21:25
  - b) What is wrong with that approach to life? Proverbs 14:12; Proverbs 12:15; Jeremiah 17:9
  - c) What hope do we have with such a predisposition toward evil? Psalm 32:8; Psalm 23:1-4.
- 2) The prophet Deborah
  - a) Judges 4:1-3 Does this remind you of another story?
  - b) Judges 4:4-8 Why does Barak has such confidence in Deborah?
  - c) Judges 4:14-15, 23 – How does this narrative give us hope as we consider the global controversy between good and evil?
- 3) Gideon
  - a) Judges 6:1 – Why do we keep repeating the same mistakes? (2:11, 3:7, 3:12, 4:1)
  - b) Judges 6:11-16 What apparent contradiction do you see in this narrative?
    - c) Judges 7:19-21 – What hope do you find in this narrative for the challenges you face today in the great struggle between good and evil?
    - d) Judges 8:22-23 – What important lesson can we learn from Gideon’s response to the men of Israel?
- 4) Samson
  - a) Judges 13:2-5 – promise of a deliverer
  - b) Judges 13:24-25 – blessed and anointed
  - c) Samson’s life begins with such promise. Where does he go astray? Judges 14:1-3 (see also Judges 16:1)
  - d) How can God work good through such a flawed representative?
  - e) Just imagine what God might have accomplished through Samson if he had been fully dedicated to the LORD. What lessons can we learn from this story for our lives today?
- 5) Ruth – a story of tragedy and deliverance
  - a) Ruth 1:1-5 – What concerns do you have about the conduct of this family?
  - b) How does the LORD work good in this apparently hopeless situation? Ruth 1:6-18
  - c) Ruth 2:1-17
  - d) Ruth 4:13-17 – What hope do you find in this story of tragedy and deliverance?
- 6) The prophet Samuel
  - a) A time of apostasy: 1 Samuel 2:12-25
  - b) How was Samuel able to “grow before the LORD” during this time of apostasy?
  - c) The call of Samuel: 1 Samuel 3:1-10
  - d) What lesson can we learn from Samuel’s story?