

Word notes Sunday 12/10/08 Tony Hodge
Judges Session 2: The Lord the Judge

Summary

This first section of the book of Judges is unusual in that it doesn't relate the story of one of the 12 "Judges" at all. These Judges are identified in one or more of the following ways: they are leaders, deliverers or saviours, with a need for their actions arising because Israel "did what was evil" such that the Lord punished them and when they repented He raised up a Judge as rescuer.

In the opening section of the book of Judges (1:1 to 3:6) no one like that is identified and yet there is one to whom Israel looks: The Lord. Each time He speaks the message is in one way or another a "judgment".

The judgement the Lord brings comes in three phases:

God's directive – when God commands

God's accusation – when God shines His light on the sin.

God's decree – when God says what will happen as a result.

In Judges, and even throughout the Old Testament history, we can see these things happening in a cyclic way for the nation of Israel. Will there ever be any rest from this cycle? Only when Sin and Death are swallowed up in Victory – something which in OT times was looked forward to but never achieved but in New Testament times is seen in the Victory of Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection.

Application:

What are the Lord's judgements today? I propose the following:

Directive: Acts 2:38

Accusation: Acts 9:4-5

Decree: Acts 2:17-18

Discuss and ask if anyone in the Cell would have some other suggestions (they must be backed up by scripture!).

In a spiritual sense what is different about the times we live in and the times of the Judges? What is the same? Does John 16:33 summarise these similarities and differences?

Witness:

Sept-Oct task:

Organise a social event sometime over the next couple of months that Cell members can invite friends to. Examples might be a Halleluiah party for children (as opposed to Halloween) fireworks parties for families, dinner parties for adults. The aim is to have fun with non-Christians. Think ahead to the end of the year and be ready to organise Christmas or New Year events to follow-up.