

SESSION 26: JUDGES

A. Period of the Judges

1. **Called the Theocracy - Rule of God**
 - a. No king
 - b. Nation is left to follow the law individually.
 - c. Almost no prophets
2. **Period lasts for about 350 years.**
 - a. Information concerning the period found in:
 - i. *Joshua- Final chapters*
 - ii. *Judges*
 - iii. *Ruth*
 - iv. *I Samuel 1-7*
 - b. About 1/20 to 1/25 the time spent on the kingdom.
3. **Period of terrible spiritual decline**
4. **Key word - *compromise*- adjustment of the will of God to personal preference.**
 - a. Not total disregard - Simply selective.

B. Book of Judges

1. **Key word-** Compromise
2. **Key man-** Samson- Pictures the whole problem of the time.
3. **Key event-** Chapter 2 - Message at Bochim
4. **Outline-** Book is a prophetic account of the period
 - a. Explanation of the Period 1-2
 - b. History of the Period 3-16
 - c. Illustration of the Period 17-21

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
Judges 21:25

5. Cycle of the Judges

- a. *Chapter 1- Account of the military failure.*
- b. *Chapter 2- Account of the spiritual failure that resulted from the Canaanites remaining in the land.*
- c. *Idolatry led to a pattern of experience.*
 - i. Sin
 - ii. Judgement
 - iii. Repentance
 - iv. Deliverance.
- d. *Because the judgments recorded were military defeats, the deliverance was military.*
 - i. Deliverers tended to become rulers after the deliverance leading to the title Judges.
- e. *Although the experience was up and down there is also a gradual decline overall- The spiritual tide was going out.*

6. Illustration of the period.

- a. Two stories given to demonstrate the seriousness of the moral decline.

Assignment

Read the book of Ruth. From what we have discussed, how can you see Boaz as a man who exemplified the spirit of the Mosaic law?