

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Bring Back the Glory

SERMON REFERENCE: Judges 1:1-2

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1800

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) A nation, a family, a church, and a Christian may all lose their glory.
 - i) Sometimes, a Christian who is born in the fires of revival finds himself or herself living in the smoke.
 - ii) We need to get the glory of God back into our lives.
- b) The book of Judges is the story of how the nation of Israel gained and then lost the glory that was hers.
 - i) It is also the story of God bringing back the glory to a land.
 - ii) It is the story of revival after failure.
- c) The nation of Israel has a glorious history.
 - i) Under the leadership of God, the Jewish people had broken the chains of slavery and had come out of Egypt into the land that God had given them.
 - (1) Judges 1:1-2
 - (a) In this passage, the word “Judah” means “praise”.
 - (b) Judah was the dominant tribe.
 - (i) “Praise” was going to lead them into the land that God had given them.
 - (2) It was a glorious land that flowed with milk, honey, grapes, pomegranates, and figs.
 - (a) It was the gift of God to them.
 - ii) God gave them Himself.
 - (1) They had a Lord.
 - iii) God gave them the Ten Commandments.
 - (1) They had a law.
 - iv) God gave them Canaan.
 - (1) They had a land.
 - v) But they denied the Lord, they defied the law, and they defiled the land.
 - (1) God sent judgment upon them.
 - d) There is a striking parallel between what happened to Israel and what is happening to America today.
 - i) Just as God gave Israel a land, many of us have in our hearts that God gave us this land.
 - (1) No nation has ever had such a Christian beginning and birth as America.
 - (2) The American dream was placed into the bosom of the founding fathers by God Himself.
 - (3) God gave to us a Lord, a law, and a land.
 - ii) America is doing the same thing that Israel did so long ago.
 - iii) As the glory departed from Israel, the glory that belonged to America is receding over the horizon.
 - iv) America needs a moral and spiritual awakening.
 - e) Family fortunes come in three stages:
 - i) The first generation generates.
 - ii) The second generation speculates.

- iii) The third generation dissipates.
 - (1) And the family fortune is gone.
 - f) A nation has three stages, as well.
 - i) One generation generates.
 - ii) Another generation speculates.
 - iii) A third generation degenerates and dissipates.
 - (1) And the nation is gone.
 - g) In today's message, we will look at the following:
 - i) Days of glorious conquest.
 - ii) Days of gradual compromise.
 - iii) Days of grim consequences.
- 2) DAYS OF GLORIOUS CONQUEST (JUDGES 1:1-2)
- a) God gave Israel a wonderful and glorious beginning.
 - i) One generation generates.
 - ii) From victory unto victory, the armies of Israel under Joshua marched.
 - (1) Walls fell, kings were subdued, and the land was taken.
 - b) America has gone from victory unto victory.
 - c) No nation has ever had such a beginning as the United States of America.
 - i) Patrick Henry gave a speech in the Virginia Assembly that was the spark that ignited the American Revolution.
 - (1) This never-to-be-forgotten speech included the words, "Give me liberty, or give me death."
 - ii) The Revolutionary war was won.
 - (1) We, too, came from chains and tyranny to be a freeborn people.
 - iii) George Washington, the first president of the United States and the father of our country, took the oath of office with his hand upon the Holy Bible.
 - (1) After he took the oath of office, he kissed the Bible.
 - (2) His first official act as president was to take the entire Senate and the House of Representatives to church.
 - (a) They worshipped for two hours.
 - (3) In his inaugural address, George Washington said, "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency."
 - (a) God has brought us thus far.
 - (b) We cannot fail to see the hand of God in America.
- 3) DAYS OF GRADUAL COMPROMISE (JUDGES 2:1-2)
- a) Another generation speculates.
 - b) Judges 2:1-2

- i) God brought them out of Egypt.
 - (1) He gave them liberty.
 - ii) God brought them to the land.
 - (1) He gave them victory.
 - iii) God said that He had given them everything.
 - (1) He brought them to Egypt, went with them, and gave them victory.
 - iv) God told them not to make any league with the people who lived in the land; yet, they disobeyed God.
- c) Judges 2:7
- i) As long as they saw God working and saw His great works, they served God.
- d) Judges 2:10
- i) Joshua and his descendants died.
 - ii) There arose a new generation.
 - (1) One generation generates.
 - (2) Another generation speculates.
- e) There is another generation of Americans living today.
- i) Not the generation that suffered, fought, bled, and died for this country.
 - ii) Not the generation that believed the Word of God.
- f) Judges 17:6 is a key verse in understanding the book of Judges.
- i) This is what is happening in America today.
- g) There is a generation today that is speculating.
- i) They have no fixed standard of right and wrong.
 - (1) They don't understand the moral foundations of this nation.
 - (2) Judges 17:6
 - (a) This passage doesn't say that every man did what was wrong in his own eyes, but that every man did what was right in his own eyes.
 - (3) Proverbs 14:12
 - ii) In our educational system, children are taught values clarification.
 - (1) They are given a moral situation and asked what they would do in that situation.
 - (a) They are told that there are no right or wrong answers.
 - (i) You do what is right in your own eyes.
 - iii) Many Americans no longer believe that the Bible is the literal Word of God.
 - iv) Many people believe that there are no moral absolutes and no absolute truth.
 - (1) What is truth for you may not be truth for me.
 - (2) Many evangelical Christians (Sunday morning church goers) believe that there is no absolute truth.
 - (a) Judges 17:6
- h) God told Israel that He would judge them because He had said not to make any league with the Canaanites.
 - i) They did make league with the Canaanites.

- ii) Judges 1:19
 - (1) It was not God's failure; it was their failure.
 - (2) They thought that the Canaanites were too strong for them.
 - (3) Rather than fighting the Canaanites, they accommodated themselves to these Canaanites.
 - (a) They thought that they would never be able to remove the Canaanites, so they felt they had to make some sort of league or peace with them.
- i) There were the Canaanites that they feared.
 - i) Judges 1:19
 - (1) Those who were in chariots of iron.
 - (2) Those we can't do anything about.
 - ii) What are the Canaanites that we fear today?
 - (1) We are told that we cannot do anything about the drug culture; therefore, we need to decriminalize drugs.
 - (a) If we decriminalize it, then we can control it.
 - (i) That is like putting out a fire with gasoline.
 - (2) It has been said that the sexual orientation of parents has nothing to do with the sexual orientation or outlook of children.
 - iii) People say that we have problems that we cannot do anything about, so let's accommodate ourselves to these problems.
 - (1) What does this say about our expectations to a child?
 - (2) There are kids who are falling off a cliff, and people are building ambulances and putting them at the bottom of the cliff.
 - (a) Instead, we need to be building fences at the top of the cliff and holding up the standard for boys and girls and teaching them that we do have higher expectations.
 - (3) Kids should know that God's plan is one man for one woman and a monogamous marriage until death do them part.
 - (a) No one is smarter than God.
 - (4) We need to teach our children character.
- j) There were Canaanites that they favored.
 - i) Judges 1:28
 - (1) There were some Canaanites that they said they couldn't beat, and others that they thought they could make servants out of them.
 - (2) In this verse, the word "tribute" means "slave labor".
 - (a) They made them their servants.
 - (i) They thought they were useful, so why drive them out?
 - ii) There were Canaanites whom they believed were beneficial to them and could serve them.
 - (1) Even though they were wicked and immoral, the Israelites thought they could make use of them.
 - iii) There are certain Canaanites today that we believe are beneficial and can serve us.

- (1) One that is infecting the land today is legalized gambling.
 - (a) We put it to tribute and think of what we can gain from it.
 - (i) Instead, we need to think of what we can lose.
 - (b) There is a difference between gambling and regular business.
 - (i) Regular business is win-win.
 - 1. I make a product; I sell it to you.
 - 2. I get the profit; you get the product.
 - 3. I win, and you win.
 - (ii) Gambling is win-lose.
 - 1. No one can win in gambling unless someone else loses.
 - (2) The government encourages its citizens to participate in state lotteries.
 - (3) People say that by selling liquor and gambling, we can get certain resources.
 - (a) Human misery should not be trafficked for economic gain.
 - (b) We say we will put these to work for us.
 - (i) We make virtues out of vices.
 - k) There were Canaanites that they fellowshipped.
 - i) Judges 1:32
 - (1) They just moved in.
 - (a) They lived among them.
 - (2) They learned their religions.
 - (3) They learned their morals.
 - (4) They kept company with Canaanites.
 - ii) James 4:4
 - iii) 1 John 2:15
 - iv) Romans 12:2
 - v) A problem in many churches is that we keep company with Canaanites.
 - (1) The average Christian is not concerned about these Canaanites.
 - vi) It has been said that sin will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.
 - (1) People think that they can just handle sin.
 - vii) Many people want a little worldliness.
 - l) God said to drive out the Canaanites.
 - i) Judges 2:2
 - ii) 2 Corinthians 6:17
- 4) DAYS OF GRIM CONSEQUENCES (JUDGES 2:3-4)
- a) The third generation dissipates.
 - b) Judges 2:3-4
 - i) If we want to know what is wrong in America, then notice the word “wherefore” in this passage.
 - (1) America has thorns in its side and snares around its feet.

- ii) The protection of the Almighty had gone from them.
- c) The protection of God has gone from America.
 - i) God has guided us, guarded us, and gladdened us.
 - ii) No nation has ever had the victories economically, militarily, and socially that this nation has had.
- d) We have lost the respect of other nations.
 - i) We have ambivalence in our foreign policy.
 - ii) How can we help other people with their problems when we cannot even solve our own problems?
- e) We are losing the battle culturally.
 - i) We are in a war, not of bullets and bombs, but of ideas.
 - ii) There are teen pregnancies, teenagers experimenting with bisexuality, divorce, teen suicides, and an increase in violent crimes.
 - (1) Thorns and snares will be yours.
 - (a) Judges 2:3
 - iii) Our streets are filled with violence and rage.
 - iv) The poverty rate is rising year by year.
 - v) The Bible and the Ten Commandments have been taken out of schools.
 - (1) There arose a generation who knew not Joshua.
 - (2) If having the Bible and Ten Commandments in schools is wrong, then why has it been suddenly wrong?
 - (a) What has been the difference from the nation that we once knew?
 - (3) Exodus 20:13-15
 - f) We are losing the war against nature.
 - i) There are floods, fires, earthquakes, ice storms, devastating hurricanes, and tornadoes.
 - ii) There are diseases and pestilence.
 - iii) Are these the judgment of God?
 - (1) Not in the true sense because when God judges, God will judge with more precision.
 - iv) God has taken away His protection.
 - (1) All of these things have been out there, and the devil is not an equal opportunity employer.
 - (2) The ravishes of nature, apart from the protecting hand of God, can do many horrible things.
 - g) Judges 17:6
 - h) Judges 2:2-3

5) CONCLUSION

 - a) One generation generates.
 - b) Another generation speculates.
 - c) A third generation dissipates, and it is over.
 - d) Is there any hope?
 - i) Judges 2:16

- (1) This verse begins with the word, “Nevertheless”.
- (2) God raised up judges.
- (3) The word “judge” here means “to save” and “to deliver”.
 - (a) God sent them deliverers.
 - (b) God sent them a way out.
 - (i) Sometimes they would take the way, and sometimes they would not.
 - (ii) But it’s never too late with God.
 - ii) God had much rather forgive than to judge.
 - iii) God still loves this country, and He still loves you.
 - iv) God still has a way for your home and family.
 - v) “Nevertheless” is still in the Word of God.
- e) We must disabuse ourselves of the idea that there is no hope, because as long as there is God, there is hope.
- f) Why would we follow anyone other than the Lord, when He is the one who gave us moral, spiritual, eternal, and political freedom?
 - i) It all comes from Jesus.
 - (1) No one has paid a greater price than what He has paid for us.
- g) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- h) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16