

Judges, Sermon #4

Judges 2

Chapter 2 gives an overview of the entire book of Judges.

I preached over in Derby Sunday.

I brought them an encouraging message. There are a lot of places that you can go and never hear a discouraging, rebuking, reproofing sermon. Yet, that is exactly what we need some times.

I have entitled tonight's message – **The Rebuking Messenger**

Judges 2:1

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

Judges 2:1-5

Let us pray

You may be seated

The Rebuking Messenger

Vs. 1a

We are significantly told, “*from Gilgal to Bochim.*” Bo Keem
 Gilgal was the first campsite of the people of Israel after they crossed the Jordan River.

Joshua 4:18-20

- Priests feet and the Ark
- Miraculous Crossing
- 12 stones

They took stones from the Jordan and set them up at Gilgal as a memorial to God’s deliverance! All the males were circumcised. The first Passover was kept in Gilgal.

They also set up the Tabernacle.

The Tabernacle had been set up at Gilgal by Joshua.

The Tabernacle symbolized God’s presence, so in verse 1, we see the angel going up from the Tabernacle at Gilgal to Bokim.

Vs. 1

An unknown messenger presented himself.

The word “angel” means a *messenger* sent from God.

Was this an angel sent from Gilgal - a special messenger such as a prophet or priest sent by God?

Or was it the LORD Himself who sometimes confronted His people?

The Angel of the Lord appears to God’s people.

In the Old Testament, the “angel of the Lord” is generally interpreted to be the Lord Himself, who occasionally came to deliver an important message.

I believe the “angel” to be is none other than the preincarnate Christ.

This is known as a theophany – an Old Testament appearance of Jesus Christ – visually! A pre-incarnation visit of Jesus.

Look carefully at vs. 1

- Joshua 4:13
- Exodus 3:5-6 – The Angel of the Lord spoke out of the burning bush and do you know what he said? I am the God of thy Father, the God of Abraham.....take off thy shoes for the place that thou standeth is Holy ground
- Fiery Furnace – Nebuchadnezzar
- Mount Moriah – Abraham & Isaac

Judges 6:12, 14

Folks, many false teachers teach that Jesus was created and He began as a baby.

Listen Carefully:

Micah 5:2, “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

Isaiah 9:6, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

The fact that God Himself came to give the message shows how serious things had become in Israel.

In verse 1, the angel of the LORD reminded His people of three wonderful facts:

- **1st** – It was the LORD Himself who had delivered them from Egyptian slavery and
- **2nd** Given them the promised land, the land promised to the forefathers;

- **3rd** The LORD was faithful to keep all His promises.

He had never broken His covenant with His people.

The angel of the LORD reminded His people of three facts:

1. His deliverance, 2. His gift of the promised land, 3. His faithfulness

The words of this Divine Messenger were few, but they were powerful.

Now notice The Rebuke of the Lord – Vs. 2-3. God went up to expose the people's sin and to charge them with apostasy.

The Lord now holds Israel accountable and responsible for their disobedience.

The accusation was very serious.

To expose the terrible evil, the angel of the LORD confronted God's people.

Some people think that God doesn't care about their sinfulness.

He won't mind! I'll just ask Him to forgive me!

I want to assure you that God is **CONCERNED**.

The Lord asks at the end of verse 2 "Why have ye done this"? "You have not obeyed my voice!"

God hasn't changed. He is **STILL** concerned about our disobedience.

If the Lord was personally present would He make these statements to us?

Why have you done this?

Why have ye not obeyed my Word!

There is no excuse for disobedience to God.

Our inability is never an excuse when God gives the command.

The only thing worse than failure from disobedience is trying to excuse it.

We are responsible! Don't blame someone else or plead ignorance.

- There is no excuse for believers to disobey God.
- There is no excuse for adultery, bed hopping, shacking up, drunkenness, lying cheating, stealing, drug addiction, or for bitterness to anchor itself into our life.

Why did Israel fail and disobey the Lord?

Incomplete obedience.

- They did not utterly drive out their enemies – Vs. 2

There is a price for disobedience, vs. 3a. God would not drive out their enemies because of their disobedience .

Plus, their enemies would be thorns in their side – Vs. 3

What does a thorn do to a person? – How many of you have gotten a thorn this past season?

- It affects the rest or peace of a person. Sin robs one of peace and rest.
- It limits the strength of an individual. Sin robs a person of spiritual strength as well as physical strength.
- It causes infection. Infection spreads. Sin affects all areas of our life. It will affect what happens at home, work, and church, etc.
- It distracts the person with pain. It changes the person's focus or attention. Sinful living changes the focus of a person from the Lord to self.

Thorns can disfigure a person. Sin can mar a person for life emotionally, mentally, spiritually, and also physically.

Vs. 3e

Israel's enemies would also become a snare which was a noose for catching animals or a hook for a nose.

What does a snare do?

- Snares restrict freedom. Sin will rob us of control of our life and eventually leaves us in bondage.
- Snares can inflict pain and rob one of joy. Sin creates heartache.

Has God put some thorns and snares in our life because we are living in sin?

Why not get right with God right now?

For believers today, the first step away from the Lord is “friendship with the world” (James 4:4), which then leads to our being spotted by the world (1:27).

The next step is to “love the world” (1 John 2:15) and gradually become “conformed to this world” (Rom. 12:2).

This can lead to being “condemned with the world” (1 Cor. 11:32), the kind of judgment that came to Lot (Gen. 19), Samson (Jud. 16), and Saul (1 Sam. 15, 31).

The Rebuking Messenger

No wonder the people wept when they heard the message!

What was the result of the Visit – Vs. 4-5.

The charge leveled by the LORD struck a responsive chord in the hearts of the people:

- They confessed and repented before the LORD.

- Unfortunately, their confession and repentance was only a brief, fleeting, short-lived experience.

How many of us have every with tears confessed our sin only to go right back to it soon thereafter?

We have even offered the Lord sacrifices, or deals and then go back to our old ways.

Their sorrow was because of the *consequences* of their sins and not because the wickedness of their sins.

Life continues to get worse for Israel because of their disobedience to the Lord.

The Rebuking Messenger

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Has sin become a thorn, a snare unto us?

Are we in complete obedience as far as we know with the Lord?

Are we sorry for our sins because of the consequences or because of our wickedness?