

Judges, Part 5 – It Came To Pass

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

- 4th time – “there was no king in Israel”
- 2nd time – “every man did that which was right in his own eyes”
- Illustration: Current Canadian Political Situation
- **GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL!**
Acts 17:26-27 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; [27] That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:
- **GOD IS STILL FAITHFUL!**
2 Timothy 2:9-13 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. [10] Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. [11] It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: [12] If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: [13] If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.
- The book of Judges is one of eight Old Testament books that contain the phrase “now it came to pass” in their opening verse. In the Hebrew language it reads “and it was” – a strange way to start a book! Why? Because it is only part of God’s continuing story! It would be like re-watching a videotaped sporting event – even during the tightest moments of the game, you can relax because you already know how it’s going to end!
- “It came to pass” is such a familiar Bible phrase that when the author of the Book of Mormon wanted to make his book sound “scriptural” he used it. He tried way too hard! Here’s what Mark Twain said about it: “Wherever he found his speech growing too modern -- which was about every sentence or two -- he ladled in a few such Scriptural phrases as ‘exceeding sore,’ ‘and it came to pass,’ etc., and made things satisfactory again. ‘And it came to pass’ was his pet. If he had left that out, his Bible would have been only a pamphlet.”
- One political commentator writing about the tyranny of Saddam Hussein observed: “Every chapter in the Bible that begins, “And it came to pass in the days of _____” where the blank identifies one individual, know that you are about to read a story of tragedy and destruction.” But I would add that the next chapter will probably add, “And it came to pass that ... he died!”

- That’s why it came – it came to pass! Everything life and the enemy can throw at us is only temporary. Realizing this will shrink your trials down to a manageable size. Someday soon, the problems of this life will be a distant memory, swallowed up in the joy of God’s eternity!
- **Matthew 6:24-25** No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. [25] Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?
- When Matthew 6:25 tells us to “take no thought for your life” (KJV), the Greek word is MERIMNAO. It is translated “worry” by most of the newer Bible versions. Its root word means to divide into parts, literally illustrating a distraction or preoccupation that causes anxiety. When you “compartmentalize” life, you lose sight of the big picture!
- **I AM** (a poem by Helen Mallicoat)
I was regretting the past and fearing the future.
Suddenly, my Lord was speaking. "My name is I Am."
He paused. I waited. He continued.
When you live in the past, with its mistakes and regrets,
it is hard. I am not there. My name is not “I was.”
When you live in the future, with its problems and fears,
it is hard. I am not there. My name is not “I will be.”
When you live in this moment it is not hard. I am here.
My name is “I AM.”
- **Hebrews 13:5b (KJV)** ... for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
- **Hebrews 13:5b (AMP)** ... for He (God) Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless, nor forsake nor let [you] down, [relax My hold on you]. Assuredly not!
- In the darkest days of the book of Judges, when society and spirituality were falling apart, the story of RUTH takes place!
 - A love story – a husband seeking a bride
 - A salvation story – a gentile woman in the lineage of Christ
 - A harvest story – the lord of the harvest bringing in sheaves
- Which book are you living in ... Judges or Ruth?