

F. LaGard Smith answers the question: Where is the church today compared to the Jews in the book of Judges?

Discussion and study guides / questions / topics for your consideration.

1. Context for the question and discussion: what is the pattern of Israel in the book of Judges? Is this a fair summary:
 - a. Forgetting or falling away; disobedience; oppression/persecution; crying out for succor and repentance; raising up a savior; overcoming; revival; peace.
 - b. Forgetting or falling away; disobedience; oppression/persecution; crying out for succor and repentance; raising up a savior; overcoming; revival; peace.
 - c. Repeat...(Jud 2.11-13; 4.1; 6.1; etc)
2. Is it appropriate or analogous to compare the Lord's church to the nation of Israel? Discuss.
 - a. Are there people in the church as well as in that nation of Israel?
 - b. Would you know if what was / is being done is "...evil in the sight of the Lord..." (Heb 5.11-14 and 1 Cor 14.20; Eph 4.12-15)
3. On what point of the cyclical pattern do you think the church is, today? Do you think there is a cyclical pattern that applies to the Lord's church?
 - a. Do you agree or disagree that the church is in the disobedience mode? Discuss.
 - b. Are there any signs or observations or discernment of the times around us that support this?
4. Were there warnings given to the Israelites concerning their future when they began to occupy and settle the land God gave to them? (Deut 7.1-26; 27.9-26; 28.15-68;
 - a. What was the key to their future and well-being? (Deut 11.1-25; 28.1-14; 30.11-20; 32.44-47)
 - b. Re-read Deut 32.47. What is the key?
5. Are there warnings given to the church concerning its well-being and health?
 - a. What is the key to the church's / our future and well-being? (John 6.66-69; 12.46-50; 14.23,24; 1 Tim 6.3ff)

6. The root and stem of this discussion seems to be summed up in Judges 21.25 "...everyone did what was right in his own eyes."
 - a. What do you think?
 - b. What about Judges 2.10?
 - c. When we are not following God, but are following our own selves, what do you think is the rate of survivability? (Prov 10.17; 14.12)

7. The application of this "condition": ...everyone did what was right in his own eyes... is made to nation, culture, society, church, and family. Is that appropriate? What do you think?
 - a. Regarding overcoming and revival or restoration, do you think it is too late or can there be a reversal? Is a reversal or revival even necessary?
 - b. The remedy is what? Jesus said if you love me, you will....do what? (Jo 14.15, 21-24; Matt 11.25-30).