

◆ ◆ ◆ MELTON MESSAGE ◆ ◆ ◆

This message may be duplicated, faxed, e-mailed, and distributed FREELY, but not for any monetary purposes.

Christ in Every Chapter

#MC16

Judges 1 - 14

Copyright © 2009 James L. Melton

CHAPTER 1

Verse 1: **“Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?”** What an interesting contrast to the first verse in the book of Joshua: **“Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.”** Joshua, the book of victory, begins with the Lord appointing a successor for Moses. Judges, the book of defeat, begins with no successor being appointed, but instead “the children of Israel” attempt to govern themselves. The book ends in apostasy with everyone doing “that which was right in his own eyes” (Jgs. 21:25). The lesson is obvious: when the church ceases to function with Christ as its head, it suffers defeat and declines into apostasy. This is well illustrated in Revelation 3:14-22 where Jesus is locked out of the wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked church.

CHAPTER 2

Verse 1: **“... I will never break my covenant with you.”** In spite of Israel's apostasy in the book of Judges, God never forsakes His people. So it is with the new covenant that He has with the church through Christ. He rebukes and chastens wayward believers (Rev. 3:19, Heb. 12:6-8, Psa. 89:28-33, I Cor. 11:30-32), but, because of the completed work of Christ on whom they believe, God does not forsake them (Heb. 13:5).

◆ ◆ ◆ MELTON MESSAGE ◆ ◆ ◆

This message may be duplicated, faxed, e-mailed, and distributed FREELY, but not for any monetary purposes.

CHAPTER 3

Verses 9-10: Othniel serves as a type of Christ because he delivers God's people from the heathen king Chushanrishathaim, a name that means "Cushan of double wickedness," obviously a type of the devil and his crowd, from which Christ has delivered his people. Appropriately enough, the word *Othniel* means "force of God."

CHAPTER 4

Verses 8-9, 15, 21: The picture here is that of the Christian finding the power of Christ through weakness. Barak is basically a wimp who can't do anything on his own, and two women ("weaker vessels" – I Pet. 3:7) play important roles in defeating Sisera and his army. Yet, God grants a great victory. This is clearly a case of the power of Christ being realized through our own weaknesses (Heb. 11:34; II Cor. 12:9-10).

CHAPTER 5

Deborah's whole victory song offers us glimpses of the second coming of Christ. A few choice verses are listed below:

Verse 19: **"The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no gain of money."** Megiddo is the location of the future battle of Armageddon, where Christ will prevail over the kings of the earth (Rev. 16:16)

Verse 20: **"They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera."** This shows divine intervention, much like the coming battle of Armageddon.

Verse 31: **"So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might . . ."** Christ at the second coming is pictured by the sun in Malachi 4:2: **"But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings . . ."** Also, Christ's followers are likened unto the sun in Matthew 13:43: **"Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."**

CHAPTER 6

Verses 25-26: **"Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock . . ."** Gideon's dedication is

◆ ◆ ◆ MELTON MESSAGE ◆ ◆ ◆

This message may be duplicated, faxed, e-mailed, and distributed FREELY, but not for any monetary purposes.

similar to that spoken of by Jesus in Luke 12:53: **“The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father.”** This, of course, pictures the dedication that Christ expects from all true believers.

CHAPTER 7

Verse 1: **“Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon . . .”** The name Gideon implies one who *destroys* or *tears down*, and his new name Jerubbaal speaks of *contending with Baal*. So, again, we see Christ foreshadowed because it is He who will tear down the kingdoms of this world and establish His own righteous kingdom.

Verses 2 & 7: **“ . . . The people that are with thee are too many . . . By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you. . . ”** So it is with those who follow Christ. Many are called, but few are chosen (Mat. 20:16), and few there be that find eternal life in Christ (Mat. 7:13-14).

CHAPTER 8

Verses 4-9, 13-17: Those who choose to not help Gideon and his men reap a harsh judgment. So it is with those who do not assist in the cause of Christ. There are no sideliners in the war of good and evil. Those who do not gather stones with Jesus are scattering stones for the devil (Mat. 12:30). Those who do not assist the followers of Christ are enemies of Christ, and they will reap a harsh judgment (Mat. 25:31-46).

CHAPTER 9

Verses 51-53: **“But there was a strong tower within the city . . . And Abimelech came unto the tower, and fought against it, and went hard unto the door of the tower to burn it with fire. And a certain woman cast a piece of a millstone upon Abimelech's head, and all to brake his skull.”** According to Proverbs 18:10, **“The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.”** Interestingly enough, the strong tower in question is at Thebez, which means “brightness,” thus making it a type of Christ the “strong tower” of light in whom the church has found refuge from the world of darkness. As the woman was in the tower, the church is in Christ. As the woman was victorious over her enemy, the Christ’s church is victorious over the world, the flesh, and the devil.

◆ ◆ ◆ MELTON MESSAGE ◆ ◆ ◆

This message may be duplicated, faxed, e-mailed, and distributed FREELY, but not for any monetary purposes.

CHAPTER 10

Verses 3-4: **“And after him arose Jair, a Gileadite, and judged Israel twenty and two years. And he had thirty sons that rode on thirty ass colts, and they had thirty cities, which are called Havothjair unto this day, which are in the land of Gilead.”**

At first, it doesn't look like there's anything here, but a closer look will reveal a rather neat picture of Christ and His followers. Generally speaking, Jair pictures Christ because any good judge typifies Christ (Isa. 2:4; Mic. 5:1). But, more specifically, Jair's name is interesting. It means “enlightener.” Christ, of course, is the enlightener of mankind (John 1:9; John 8:12). The fact that Jair's *sons* were given cities is also interesting since Christ gives cities to His sons in the millennial kingdom (John 1:12; Luke 19:17-19).

CHAPTER 11

Verses 1-2: **“Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour, and he was the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat Jephthah. And Gilead's wife bare him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they thrust out Jephthah, and said unto him, Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou art the son of a strange woman.”** God is going to use a man that others feel is unqualified due to his peculiar birth. So Christ was accused of being “born of fornication” by the proud, religious, hypocritical, Pharisees (John 8:41).

Verse 3: **“Then Jephthah fled from his brethren, and dwelt in the land of Tob: and there were gathered vain men to Jephthah, and went out with him.”** Sinners flee to Christ during His time of exile from His brethren, the Jews. The land of Tob is *east* of Israel across the Jordan. So, like Jephthah (and Joshua), Jesus will come to Israel from the east: **“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”** (Mat. 24:27).

Verse 5: **“And it was so, that when the children of Ammon made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to fetch Jephthah out of the land of Tob.”** So Israel will seek Christ in her affliction (Hos. 5:15).

CHAPTER 12

Verses 1-6: Jephthah's life as a whole can stand as a twofold picture of Christ. The first picture is of the first coming of Christ when our Lord went back to heaven after being rejected by His brethren. This is pictured by Jephthah fleeing from his brethren to the land of Tob (11:1-3). The second picture

◆ ◆ ◆ MELTON MESSAGE ◆ ◆ ◆

This message may be duplicated, faxed, e-mailed, and distributed FREELY, but not for any monetary purposes.

is of the second coming of Christ, illustrated by Jephthah not fleeing from anyone after he has returned from across Jordan. The men of Ephraim were no longer dealing with a fleeing lamb, but rather with a roaring lion.

CHAPTER 13

The next four chapters deal with Samson, a flawed man who would be disqualified to serve as a type of Christ in the eyes of most Laodicean Pharisees, but God was so pleased with the man that He entered his name in His glorious “hall of faith” (Heb. 11:32). With that commendation in mind, we can expect to find a few more nuggets in the forthcoming chapters.

Verse 7: **“But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son . . .”** Not every woman has an angel visit and announce that she’s going to bear a son. So, we see that Samson starts out with an unusual birth, like Christ.

“ . . . for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.” Although Jesus was not a Nazarite, He was certainly consecrated to God, living a holier life than any Nazarite ever lived.

Verse 24: **“And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.”** The name Samson means “sunlight,” obviously pointing to Christ the “Sun of righteousness” (Mal. 4:2) and the “light of the world” (John 8:12) who is also like **“the sun . . . Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.”** (Psa. 19:4-5)

CHAPTER 14

Verses 1-4: It can’t be pressed very far, but the fact that Samson has an interest in a gentile bride points to Christ who calls out of the gentiles a people for Himself before returning and being received among His own people (Acts 15:14-16).

Verses 5-6: **“ . . . a young lion roared against him. And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid . . .”** So Christ defeats Satan the “roaring lion” of I Peter 5:8. Psalm 91:13 is also good: **“Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.”** (This is the verse that Satan refused to quote in Matthew 4:6 when tempting Jesus. He stopped at verse 12.)

◆ ◆ ◆ MELTON MESSAGE ◆ ◆ ◆

This message may be duplicated, faxed, e-mailed, and distributed FREELY, but not for any monetary purposes.

Christ in Every Chapter

#MC17

Judges 15 – Ruth 4

Copyright © 2009 James L. Melton

CHAPTER 15

Verses 7-8: “And Samson said unto them, Though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease. And he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter: and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam.” So Christ will take vengeance on His enemies: “For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.” (Isa. 63:4-6) Also, see II Thessalonians 1:7-8.

CHAPTER 16

Verse 30: “And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.” So Jesus’ greatest victory came when He sacrificed His own life for the liberation of others. The phrase “Let me die with the Philistines” is a perfect for match for Philippians 2:7-8: “**But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**” Like Samson, Christ chose to die like a common criminal.

The words “**So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life**” points to the millions of souls that have been redeemed because of the sacrificial work of Christ on Calvary. Because of Calvary, our old flesh is slain—crucified with Christ—that we might walk and live in the Spirit (Gal. 2:20).

◆ ◆ ◆ MELTON MESSAGE ◆ ◆ ◆

This message may be duplicated, faxed, e-mailed, and distributed FREELY, but not for any monetary purposes.

CHAPTER 17

Verses 10-13: **“And Micah said unto him, Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten shekels of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals. So the Levite went in. And the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man was unto him as one of his sons. And Micah consecrated the Levite; and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah. Then said Micah, Now know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to my priest.”** The story speaks volumes about the difference between the vain religions of men and the true spiritual worship that is found only in Christ. The name Micah means “who is like Jehovah?” The correct answer is no one, but Micah seems to think that Jehovah’s true religion can be duplicated. He feels confident that he will prosper since he has a Levite for a priest. The details of *how* one benefits from a Levitical priesthood do not matter to him. He ignores the entire law of Moses, including the book of Leviticus, yet he established his idolatrous religion in the name of the Levites. As the story unfolds in chapter 18, his vain religion crumples and doesn’t help him at all. So will it be with all who merely name the name of Christ while practicing a vain religion and rejecting Christ as their own personal High Priest (Mat. 7:22-23; Heb. 3:1; 10:10-12).

CHAPTER 18

Verse 24: **“... Ye have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and ye are gone away: and what have I more? ...”** The answer is *nothing* more. His vain religion was of no spiritual value to him, nor was it of any spiritual value to the Danites who stole it. Any religion that can be stolen *ought* to be stolen. By contrast, the true religion found only in Jesus Christ cannot be taken from anyone by anyone: **“My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.”** (John 10:29) Matthew 6:19-20 are also good references: **“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.”** One can steal a Christian’s Bible, but he still has Christ. One can steal a Christian’s hymnal, but he still has Christ. One can destroy a Christian’s family and church, but he still has Jesus Christ. One can even kill the Christian, but he dies in Christ. True religion is found in Jesus Christ, not before idols and images.

CHAPTER 19

Verse 1-2: The sample of human depravity that follows in this chapter should serve as a reminder to all Christians of the dangers that can arise when we begin to wander from a close relationship with Christ our King. This truth is echoed in verse two when the man’s concubine goes away from him and plays the whore. This pictures the spiritual adultery that many Christians commit by not keeping close and faithful to Christ.

◆ ◆ ◆ MELTON MESSAGE ◆ ◆ ◆

This message may be duplicated, faxed, e-mailed, and distributed FREELY, but not for any monetary purposes.

Verse 3: **“And her husband arose, and went after her, to speak friendly unto her, and to bring her again . . .”** So, Jesus seeks to reconcile sinners and wayward saints unto Himself. In fact, “to speak friendly unto her” is very similar to what Jehovah says He will do to Israel (Hos. 2:14)

CHAPTER 20

Verse 1: **“ . . . the congregation was gathered together as one man . . .”** Although the steps taken to remedy the unfortunate situation were not the wisest, still, being gathered together “as one man” is a good thing. When Christians gather together as one man, the “one man” should be none other than Jesus Christ. Ephesians 4:13 is the appropriate New Testament reference: **“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”** Philippians 2:5 is also good: **“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”** The trouble with the Israelites was that they were at first more interested in their own will than in God’s will. After learning a hard lesson, and then praying, weeping, and fasting, they submitted to God’s will (vs. 26-28), and their unified “one man” was a more proper type of Christ.

CHAPTER 21

Verse 25: **“In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”** The book closes with a final reminder of what happens when there is “no king” directing our lives. Our King is Jesus Christ (I Tim. 1:17). Only by His rule will we lead victorious Christian lives. When we cease to follow his lead, we live defeated lives, as did the Israelites in the book of Judges. Proverbs 16:25 sums it up quite well: **“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”**