**Sermon**

**February 28, 2024**

**1 Samuel 8:1-21**

**The Last Judge**

1 ***Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel.*** 3 But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice. 4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, 5 and said to him, “**Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”**

1 Samuel 8:1-5

**Samuel’s Disappointment**

6 ***But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” So Samuel prayed to the Lord***. 7 And the Lord said to Samuel, “Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; **for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.**

1 Samuel 8:6-7

**Permissive vs Perfect Will**

8 ***According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day***—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also. 9 Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them.”

1 Samuel 8:8-9

**The Power of the Judges**

9 ***When the children of Israel cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them***: Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother. 10 **The Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel.** He went out to war, and the Lord delivered Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed over Cushan-Rishathaim. 11 **So the land had rest for forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.**

Judges 3:9-11

**Their Development**

19 ***So Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.*** 20 And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the Lord. 21 **Then the Lord appeared again in Shiloh. For the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.**

1 Samuel 3:19-21

**The System**

4 ***Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time***. 5 And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And **the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.**

Judges 4:4-5

**Body Ministry**

6 ***Then she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali***, and said to him, “***Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded***, ‘Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun; 7 and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; **and I will deliver him into your hand’**?”

Judges 4:6-7

**Motivation**

8 And Barak said to her, ***“If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!”*** 9 So she said, “I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, **for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.**” Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. 10 And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; **he went up with ten thousand men under his command, and Deborah went up with him**.

Judges 4:8-10

**The Prophetic Plan**

14 Then Deborah said to Barak, ***“Up! For this is the day in which the Lord has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not the Lord gone out before you?”*** So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him. 15 And the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army with the edge of the sword before Barak; and ***Sisera alighted from his chariot and fled away on foot***. 16 **But Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth Hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.**

Judges 4:14-16

**The End of the Matter**

21 ***Then Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent peg and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple,*** and it went down into the ground; for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died. 22 And then, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said to him, “Come, I will show you the man whom you seek.” **And when he went into her tent, there lay Sisera, dead with the peg in his temple.**

Judges 4:21-22

**Being in the Know**

19 ***They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us***; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. 20 **But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things**.

1 John 2:19-20