

Deliverance From Chaos

Introduction:

I'm so thankful that God, in His wisdom and providence has given us the Scriptures, the sacred writings of the O.T. Prophets, the Gospels of Jesus, the Letters of the Apostles and the Book of Revelation. All of the Bible (Library) is God's written revelation to man.

The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to Timothy a young Pastor. **2 Timothy 3:16, 17** *"All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. NASB*

NLT says *"All scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work."*

1 - All Scripture (Both Old and New Testament) is INSPIRED by God – GOD BREATHED – Supernatural Word of God

Not just history, outlandish stories, but the eternal living Word of God.

ETERNAL - Jesus said *"heaven and earth will pass away, but My Word will never pass away."* **Matthew 24:35**

FINAL JUDGMENT – according to His Word. – *"the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day."* **John 12:48**

*This Book is the Final Authority and God's revelation to man - A Love Letter to a fallen, rebellious human race.

*There are many in the church world and even Pastors who doubt the veracity of this book, especially the Old Testament (as if these are just allegories and stories that teach a moral lesson)

2- Jesus is the Living Word – He is in every book of the Bible, revealing a part of His nature.

3- Followers of Jesus are to Conform our lives to His Word

John 8:31 “...*IF you continue in my Word, THEN you are truly disciples of Mine;*”

4- **We are to learn** from the examples of Scripture, so that we don't make the same mistakes!

Apostle Paul – **1 Corinthians 10:11** “*now these things happened to them **as an example**, and they were **written for our instruction**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*”

We can learn lessons even from the Old Testament that are incredibly relevant to our lives today. God's eternal Word speaks truth into our lives and our world today. May we learn and take to heart the lessons... ***they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.***

LEARN FROM OTHER'S MISTAKES!

***Video I saw:?** Young Millennial protester tried to assault a horse mounted police officer and reached out to strike him and was kicked in the head by the horse! Don't do that!

Let us go to the **Book of Judges chapter 2 and chapter 6**. Here we will see some incredible parallels from the Ancient Nation of Israel and our world we live in today, right here in America.

The Nation of Israel under Joshua had conquered the Promised Land and drove out the Idolatrous and Pagan Nations as God had commanded. Joshua's generation and the Elders who survived after that generation served the Lord. But then a new generation arose who didn't know the Lord. Here we pick up the story.

Judges 2:10-16,19 – The writer of the Book of Judges gives an overview of Israel's 430 year history. Its like the stories in modern movies:– RED DAWN - ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK - THE HUNGER GAMES

The Nation of Israel who was given the Law and had the glorious worship and presence of God, devolved into a state of lawlessness, rebellion, anarchy, civil war, invasion of foreign armies. Total Chaos!

It was a cycle of VICTORY, BLESSING, PROSPERITY, COMPLACENCY, COMPROMISE, BONDAGE & GROANING, CRYING OUT for DELIVERANCE, God raising up a JUDGE who would deliver them.

This leads us to Judges Chapter 6 – The Story of Gideon and **DELIVERANCE FROM CHAOS**

Scripture Text: **Judges 6:1-10**

I. The Land of Israel was in a state of Chaos

Vs 3 “...Midianites, Amalekites and Eastern peoples **INVADED** the country. Vs 4 “they **CAMPED** on the land and **RUINED** the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel (livestock) Vs 5 “...they invaded the land to **RAVAGE** (loot) it.” Vs 6 “...Midian **IMPOVERISHED** (reduced to starvation) the Israelites.”

***Chaos- Websters:** A state of utter confusion: Disarray, disorder, disorganization free-for-all, havoc, mess, shambles, hell

Chaz? – Sound Familiar to America? Rioting, Looting, Assault on Law and Order and on Police! Assault on innocent bystanders...

***The Lord said to pray against the ‘spirit of Chaos.’**

However, CHAOS is just the FRUIT of an ugly Tree. God doesn’t want to just deal with the FRUIT of the Tree, but the ROOT of the Tree.

Israelites began to Cry out to the Lord because of the oppression of the Midianites. They wanted God to deal with the **EVIL FRUIT** that they were dealing with. However, God wanted to deal with the **ROOT** of their problem.

Why was the Nation of Israel in a state of Chaos? God began to reveal it to them!

II. The Israelites (after 7 years) FINALLY Cried out to God because of the CHAOS.

*Amazing that they didn't start getting serious with God until then! Why? We will see!

*When people genuinely cry out to God for Him, He will respond! God promises...when we cry out to Him and seek Him with our whole heart, we will find Him!

Vs 7 *“When they cried out to the Lord, because of Midian, the Lord sent a prophet to the Israelites.*

*God heard their cry and their prayers and sent them a Prophet with a message.

A true prophet of God is going to **speak the Words that God gives**. A prophet **points people back to God** and the **Word of God**. A prophet sent by God will **tell you what you need to hear**, not **what you want to hear!**

***Good Doctor** – *Truthful Diagnosis*

When you call on the Lord, expect Him to answer, but in His way and in His time.

Prayer is not magic! It is not a way to manipulate God for your own benefit. True prayer is surrendering to God! **Jeremiah 29:13** *“You will SEEK Me and FIND Me when you search for Me with ALL your heart.”*

III. God Answers and sent a Prophet to bring CLARITY to their CHAOS!

Their problem of the looting Midianites was the **FRUIT** of their problem! God sent the Prophet to deal with the **ROOT** of their problem!

The Prophet brought Clarity: Reminding them of their FOUNDATION and their FALL into Idolatry!

Vs 8 *“...this is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: ‘I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians.*

And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live. But you have not listened to Me.'

God reminded them of the Spiritual **Foundation** of their Nation:
God confronted them on their **FALL** into Idolatry.

The Israelites were the '**Covenant People**' of God – But **they opened the door to a spirit of Chaos!**

Vs 10 " ...I told you...you must not worship the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live. But you have not listened to Me.'

The Prophet confronted their Idolatry head-on.

They were breaking the 1st Commandment "to have **NO OTHER GOD'S BEFORE ME.**'

Learn from Abraham Lincoln

President Abraham Lincoln had to deal with the CHAOS of a terrible Civil War. This War, started by the Confederacy, who insisted that their economy (sustained partly by Slavery) was worth dividing our Nation over.

Yet President Lincoln looked deeper, He viewed the **Civil War** as an evil **FRUIT** from a Nation that had turned away from God by the **ROOT of idolatry!**

***Americans during the time of President Lincoln were 8 decades removed from the Founding of the Nation. They experienced liberty, freedom, and an overall decent society.**

***Americans today are 8 decades away from WWII and the threat of Nazi Germany's Global ambition of Totalitarianism. The new generation has only experienced liberty, freedom and a modern convenient society.**

The Prophet Confronted Idol Worship - Who were the 'god's of the Amorites?

Baal - The god of power, blessing and prosperity. The 'storm' god. The one who would send the rain to bless their crops. They believed that if they worshiped Baal, they would prosper and be secure.

What were the requirements of this false god? Lots of sacrifices of their time, offerings of their crops (money) and sometimes their children. Offering their children as sacrifices to this god.

Effects on worshipers: This led to desensitizing and sacrificing families for material gain. Families were negatively affected! **Materialism at any cost, this is Baal Worship!**

Asherah – The fertility god. The god who would make their families and their crops fertile. Devotees believed that Baal and Asherah had sexual relations and that would compute out on worshipers to be fertile in all their endeavors.

What were the requirements of this false god? Images of Asherah to be put up (large poles of a Nude goddess). The sacrifice of children. To engage in ritual sex, often under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

Effects on worshipers: This led to debauched and degrading sexual perversions and desensitized those who engaged in these practices. Even children are sacrificed for this Spirit of Sensuality and Perversion. Abortion!

*America and some even in the church engage in the worship at the altar of Materialism.

*America and some even the church turns a blind eye to abortion and the hyper-sexualization of our culture.

***Modern Idolatry:** The worship of money, materialism and pleasure, replaces God's presence!

***The Prophet, (like John the Baptist) preaches repentance – but doesn't bring the solution**

***The Prophet was PREPARING the hearts of God's people**

IV. God gave the people over to idol worship and Chaos!

*When people reject the true worship of a Holy God and worship idols, **God gives people over** to their idols!

Vs 1 ***"The Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight. So the Lord HANDED THEM OVER to the MIDIANITES for seven years.***

Idol Worship is EVIL in the Lord's sight.

Idol Worship is anything that a person places before God. **Exodus 20:2** *"You shall have no other gods before Me."*

Evil is what God says is Evil – Good is what God says is good!

Isaiah 5:20 *"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter."*

Idol Worship has terrible consequences!

V. Chaos came from the Midianites - Strife

The **Midianites** were Israel's Eastern hostile neighbors. They were pagan idolaters who lived in chaos and debauchery themselves. So they brought that spirit of chaos to Israel.

Midian – Hebrew word **Midyan**: *It means strife, contention, discord, brawling, conflict,*

Idolatry opens the door to strife and discord!

God will not resist you forever. If you are adamant on worshipping an idol, He will give you over to it so that you can experience the consequence of it.

How is this paralleling America and even the church today?

*We have tolerated Idols in our lives and in our culture.

*We have tolerated and not confronted the Idol of Materialism.

*We have tolerated and not confronted the Idol of Hedonism, (pleasure at any cost)

*We are reaping the harvest of the seeds of rebellion against God in our Nation. He has given us over to the spirit of strife.

*The **solution** to this problem is **NOT Social Justice** as **prescribed by secular humanism**.

*The **solution is Repentance** and **heart change** (returning to God) and Faith in Him (walking in His ways)

***The story of Gideon** is how **God intervened in a Nation to deliver from Idolatry** and from **the spirit of Chaos** and lawlessness!

***God wants to deliver people individually** from the **spirit of chaos**. **Deliver families from the spirit of chaos**.

***He can intervene in our communities and Nation** from the **spirit of Chaos**.

But...He needs people like Gideon who will respond to God and be an anointed deliverer (starting at home).

***Gideon had a heart that was burdened** for his people.

***Gideon listened to God**.

***Gideon worshiped** and believed God with a Holy Reverence.

***Gideon tore down the idols in his own house**.

***Gideon let God anoint him to go out to battle**.

***Gideon encountered God as the God of Peace**.

***Through Gideon' obedience, God raised up an anointed army that defeated the Midianites and all the chaos!** The land had peace for 40 years during the time of Gideon.

God is the same God today as He was during the time of Gideon!

Conclusion:

***Idol Worship opens the door to Chaos**

***When you cry out to God for change, He will hear and answer.**

***The answer God sends will deal with the root of your problem.**

***God will deliver you from personal chaos if you wholeheartedly follow Him!**

***God will bring peace in spite of the chaos around you!**

***God can deliver our Nation IF the people of God repent and obey God's call to obedience!**

***We will study this deeper for the next 4 weeks in our Zoom online study.**