

Key to Understanding THE JUDGES:

Judges 2:2 “And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?”

Judges 2: 10-11 “And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Balaam:”



Ron Singleterry The Judges-part 6 Adult Bible Study
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The Judges—part 6

Judges Chapter 10: 1-5

Judges 10:1-2 “And he judged Israel twenty and three years, and died,...”

Tola & Jair

Background on Tola and Jair:

Tola, the seventh judge, was of the tribe of Issachar. This tribe was just west of the Sea of Galilee; however, Tola resided at Mount Ephraim just west of the Jordan River in central Israel while he was a judge.

Jair, the eighth judge, dwelt in the northern region to the east of the Jordan River. These two judges were geographically a good distance apart. Some scholars think that their judgeships overlapped.

Accomplishments of Tola and Jair:

Only two verses were dedicated to Tola and three verses to Jair. We know very little about these judges.

Look at the contrast to Gideon. There were several chapters devoted to his life and his leadership.

All we see about Tola is “*And he judged Israel twenty and three years, and died,...*” God did not have one good thing to say about Tola, and he had very little to say about Jair.

Now don't get me wrong: God did not have anything bad to say either. He just skimmed over these two judges in such a brief manner that it is very obvious. God is letting us know that He was disappointed in their accomplishments.

Read I Cor. 3: 5-16.

1 Corinthians 3:5-16 (KJV)

Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

From the five verses on Tola and Jair, I have to conclude that *1 Cor. 3:14 & 15* applies to them as well.

They were given leadership roles in Israel and, although they did not do any recorded wickedness; we also see that God did not have anything profitable to say about them. These men were children of God, so they were building on the right foundation; but they may have used way too much of the wrong building materials.

We will see them in Heaven at that Judgment but they may have their shoulders slumped because not much came through the fire that did not burn up. Oh yes, they are glad that they will not burn for eternity; but the focus that they had here on earth does not seem very important now as they stand empty handed before their Lord!

Paul establishes that all truly born again Christians are to work together. Our corporate goal is the same but we are all rewarded individually (*vs. 8*). Paul then talks of Jesus as the foundation and that once we are saved we are to build upon that foundation:

But what building materials are we using?

There is a judgment coming for everyone! For Christians we will be at the Judgment Seat of Christ and it will be a lot different than the Great White Throne Judgment. We will see the emphasis on our accomplishments and be rewarded for them so that we can give the glory back to Jesus.

You can be assured that every second we spend on this earth laboring for the Lord will be appreciated, not only by our Lord, but also by us as we can lay the gold, silver, and precious stones at His feet to show our love for Him!

Trail Tips:

God expects us to accomplish whatever task He has set before us. After all, He gives us the power to do whatever He has mandated.

Be sure your building materials are lasting.