

A UNITED KINGDOM

ser5062 God & Country, Pt 2

July 3, 2022 E & L

I. (HOOK) A SHOUT OUT TO ALL

A. Point of Intrigue

July launched a new sermon series, interrupted by our 3-day Anniversary Celebration.

(I'll come back to those three marvelous days in a bit.)

Our first sermon addressed how God called Abraham, a Syrian, out of Ur, to form what is now the nation of Israel. However, Abraham is not only the Father of the Jews, but he is also the father of all you believe, from every tongue, every tribe, and every nation, to all who place their trust in Jesus for the remission of sins.

You might get sick of hearing this verse, but when you have run the race, you'll be glad you put it to memory. Here is the promise:



1 Peter 2:9

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

B. Today, we're going to look at the United Kingdom.

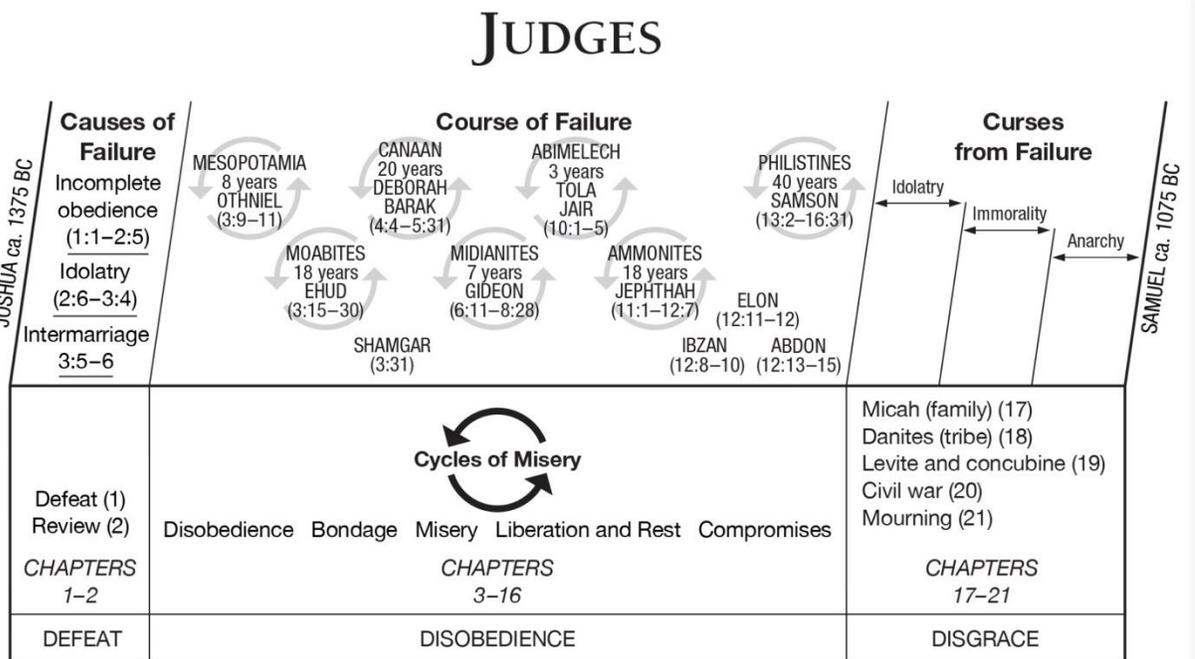
Here's a brief history. The nation of Israel was fathered by Abraham and his wife, Sarah. During a time of severe famine, Jacob, the now patriarch, moved his family to Egypt where they lived for 430 years and grew into a large nation.

After Israel's exodus from Egypt, the nation was governed by Moses, then Joshua, then the elders who served with Moses and Joshua. After Moses and Joshua, Israel had no appointed leader other than the priests.

As Moses predicted would happen, the nation quickly prostituted itself to foreign deities, and pretty much did whatever they wanted.

God would then use their foreign neighbors as His rod of discipline. Israel would become subject to the foreign countries that surrounded them. In their oppression, they would cry out to the LORD God Almighty, who would then give them a deliverer. These deliverers were called "Judges." They would break the yoke of bondage and oppression, then the yoke would return because

they would go back to living in disobedience to God. This cycle lasted for 300 years. (see chart below)



Samuel, the son of Elkanah and Hannah, the boy who heard God when he was serving with the High Priest, Eli, was Israel's last judge. Israel wanted a king like all of the nations around them. So God gave them what they wanted. (To this point Israel lived tax free other than the temple shekel and the tithe.)

God had Samuel anoint Saul, a Benjaminite. Saul was crowned at the age of 30 and reigned for 40 years. After King Saul, David became king at the age of 30 and he ruled 40 years. After King David died, his son Solomon took the throne and reigned 40 years. Because of Solomon's refusal to repent of his worship of foreign gods—brought about by the hundreds of political marriages, and his love for many woman, horses, and

other things God forbid; God took ten or Israel's twelve tribes and gave them to one of Solomon's rivals, Jeroboam. From that point forward Israel remained a divided Kingdom until both the Northern and Southern kingdoms were taken into captivity and eventually scattered throughout the entire world—as Moses predicted.

It wasn't until 1948, 2,534 years later, that Israel was declared an independent state with David Ben-Gurion as the Prime Minister.

C. Every nation is strongest when it is united.

The Bible says the church is its strongest when it is united. *Psalm 133: 1-3* tells us,

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

² It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

³ As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

There is life in unity, death in division. Let me address our next 40 years, which is the future of GCCC.

II. (BOOK) OUR TEXT *DEUTERONOMY 11:18-21*

¹⁸ “You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ¹⁹ You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ²⁰ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, ²¹ that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

III. (LOOK) OUR TEXT *DEUTERONOMY 11:19*

I’m going to pull a Gina this morning and explore our text with a few illustrations from last weekend.

A. A big shout out!

First, I’d like to give a big shout out to *Samantha Rivera, Jen Benson, Christine Toughill, John Kulikowski* and the *scores of volunteers*—from the parking lot attendants to security to game supervision—all of you made our 40th Anniversary a delightful, fun-filled, success story. THANK YOU. I’d also like to thank those who sponsored the rides, handbags, mummies, aerialist, petting zoo, and anything else I may have missed.

From Friday evening through Monday social media was lit up with thousands (and that's not an exaggeration) of photos and videos.

Granted, it rained ALL day Saturday. You would have thought that hundreds of Christians, K-Love, vendors, and ride supervisors could have prayed the rain away, but we didn't. LOL!

Sunday morning when I awakened, the sun was pouring through our windows. I said to Sheryl, "Why couldn't we have had this day yesterday?" To be honest, I said the same thing to God. I don't think He was too thrilled with my complaint. He responded, "I let you party in the rain. What more could you have asked for." At that point, I wasn't about to argue; rather I gave thanks for the rain and being able to party in it.

Young and old alike made it all happen. That is a united church. And if we're going to impact the emerging generation in a transformational way, young and old must work together.

B. What did our text say?

¹⁹ You shall teach them to your children,

NOTE: What is God saying to us? Parents and grandparents must teach their children; not our schools—they're so far left they don't have a clue what is right—not TikTok, not social media, not Instagram reels and not YouTube. Do we really want our children learning their morals from any of these platforms? Do we want our kids thinking that LGBTQA+ (they

keep adding letters), abortion, same-sex marriage, fornication, pedophilia, and other perversions are the way of the LORD?

Sheryl's and my mentors were our parents and grandparents, as were Dr Gene and Sue Huber (92 & 86) as we entered ministry. (**show photo**) I learned how to give an invitation from Gene. And, as you heard Sunday from so many of our guest speakers, they also have learned, and continue, to give the ABCs of salvation. (**Let's keep reading.**)



talking of them [the commandments of God] when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ... ²¹ that **your** days and the days of **your children** may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth. [That's a long time.]

LOOK AT THE PROMISE! Obey the commands of the LORD and **your**—old and young—days will be multiplied and so will be the days of the land in which you live. These are not my words; they are God's words.

NOW, HERE IS REALITY: There will come a time when teens think their parents (and grandparents) don't know much of anything and definitely are not cool. So, you pray that during those years God will put someone in their lives who they think is cool and who will help keep them on the right track until they realize mom and dad aren't so dumb after all. LOL!

C. That brings me to GCCC's future.

I saw this post by Nicole Hoopes. Immediately, I thought and commented: *

"Whoever dreamed that this group of young people would one day lead young and old alike in advancing the Church.

God has a plan. Now watch it unfold!" (Seniors and young marrieds, don't tune me out, your moment is coming.) ***show photo**

I continued to write:

"We are so blessed to have teens and young adults born @ GCCC, dedicated @ GCCC, baptized @ GCCC, who stay when so many others float off to the next 'new wave'. They serve, give God the tenth, pray and work towards 'revival'." And, may I say, continuing my quote, "Now watch it come!" Watch it come along with our next Lead



Pastor & his lovely wife. They are so young, but so was I forty years ago.

D. That brings me to our next lead pastor if everything goes as planned.

After starting with three large churches wanting to merge with GCCC—which really wasn't a merger but a take-over—and 42 pastors (45 if you include the churches wanting to merge), we narrowed it down to two, then to one. (Oh, how could I forget, we were also approached by a denomination.)

On August 14, you will have the opportunity to meet who the Pulpit Ministry Team believes will be my successor. This young couple, with two very young children, have deep New Jersey roots, hailing from Williamstown and Hammonton.

NOTE: It is so funny. You cannot believe the bribes I've been offered to tell who he is. LOL! I promise I won't tell anyone. Seriously, I promise.

There are many other providential connections, but that will have to wait until August. What I can say is that Sheryl and I, the Pulpit Ministry Team and Advisory Board are extremely excited about who God has chosen to be my successor. When it happens, you'll understand why this process took five years.

You, our older members will love him and his wife, and will come along side of them and be amazed with his wisdom and leadership. And you, the emerging

generation, will instantaneously have a peer who will grow the Kingdom with you. You won't recognize the church in seven to ten years. Mark my words.

Now, I said I was going to address those of us whom society labels "seniors." The church would not make it without you, your work ethic, and your commitment. Where would GCCC be without you? We would be hurting, big time. You may not have the energy of the young, but you are here week after week, praying, giving of your time, treasure, and talent. People like Margaret Sorbello, the Bessings, and others, are here nearly every day putting in hours for whatever we need done.

E. **(TOOK) FINAL THOUGHTS**

There is not a winning team in a professional sport that doesn't have a mixture of rookies, seasoned players, and veterans. It's the mix, working together with the same goal, that takes the trophy. Together, I know that you, GCCC, will take the future by storm because together, young and old, we are a kingdom united.

As God said to Joshua (my Bible reading last Sunday),

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, be not dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (*Joshua 1:9*).

And the church said, "Hallelujah!"

IV. WANT TO BE ON THE WINNING TEAM?

Receive Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.

Here's how:

Admit– your sins have separated you from God. *(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);*

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.) *(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);*

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. *(Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);*

Do it today! *(Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).*

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit, come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen!