****

**WELCOME TO MOUNT HERMON**

Sunday 25th October 2020

**SCATTERED BUT UNITED**

To the saints in [Addingham], the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1 v 1-2

**Message from David**

The book of Judges follows a roller coaster trajectory. The cycle which repeats throughout the book is this: The Israelites ignore God and instead worship the (detestable) gods of the other nations round them. God wishes to bring them back so he allows them to be defeated by some neighbouring nation. The people realise they are in deep trouble and after a few years cry out to God to help them. God raises up a judge to lead His people, the enemy is defeated and the judge rules in peace. The judge dies. The Israelites ignore God and instead worship the (detestable) gods of the other nations round them – and so the cycle continues. The last judge mentioned in the book is Samson. The people have turned away from God once more and He has allowed them to be enslaved by the Philistines. This time the circle is broken, the nation has become so corrupt they are satisfied being slaves to the Philistines and they do not even cry out to God for help. Nevertheless God on His own initiative raises up a judge in Samson. Someone so amazingly talented and yet so deeply flawed. His life is almost an illustration of the state of the Nation. Both selected by God to do great things. The nation tempted by foreign gods, Samson by foreign women, in both cases to their detriment. Samson is eventually captured by the Philistines and subject to slavery, the Israel nation later to be captured and taken into exile. Samson’s final act is to destroy the temple of the Philistine god Dagon which the Israelites would have worshipped, and in the process kill many Philistines. The culmination of the history of the Jews was Jesus who defeated the god of this world, Satan, and set us free from slavery. It is never too late to fulfil your potential, to achieve the plans that God has for you. What unfinished business is there in your life?

*Read about Samson’s life in the book of Judges chapters 13 to 16*

**Bible verses for reflection**

Samson prayed to the Lord, ‘Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes’. Judges 16.28

As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. *The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him* so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. Judges 14.5-6

Then *the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him*. He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men, stripped them of everything and gave their clothes to those who had explained the riddle. Judges 14.19

Pray that the Spirit of the Lord will come upon us and use us mightily.

As he approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. *The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him.* The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands. Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men. Judges 15.14-15

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Mission Praise 624**    Take my life and let it be  consecrated, Lord, to thee.  Take my moments and my days;  let them flow in endless praise,  let them flow in endless praise.  Take my hands and let them move  at the impulse of thy love.  Take my feet and let them be  swift and beautiful for thee,  swift and beautiful for thee.  Take my voice and let me sing  always, only, for my King.  Take my lips and let them be  filled with messages from thee,  filled with messages from thee. |  | Take my silver and my gold;  not a mite would I withhold.  Take my intellect and use  every power as thou shalt choose,  every power as thou shalt choose.  Take my will and make it thine;  it shall be no longer mine.  Take my heart it is thine own;  it shall be thy royal throne,  it shall be thy royal throne.  Take my love; my Lord, I pour  at thy feet its treasure store.  Take myself, and I will be  ever, only, all for thee,  ever, only, all for thee. | |

Derek and Linda Carver will be leading our service on Sunday 25th October

Pray for Rev Mark Cannon being inducted to St Peters on 4th November

Remember clocks go back on Saturday evening.

**Our vision: to help people find their way back to God**