

## Lecture Three - The Judges

### **Leadership by prophets and priests and anointed warriors.**

- informal leadership structures, no standing army or bureaucracy
- tribal elders & priests
- no taxation other than the tithe on agricultural produce
- every person did what he thought was right in his own eyes. (Judges 21:25)
- high level of personal freedom, low level of order and security

### **Leadership as management of harmony with God who then gave peace and security.**

- as long as the nation stayed in harmony with God it prospered.
- sin led to bondage and defeat
- The nation would cry out to God.
- God would send a leader (judge) who would restore Israel's relationship with God and bring victory.
- Christian leaders must liberate people by first of all bringing them back to God in repentance and instructing them in righteousness.

### **The Holy Spirit came upon....**

- The judges were frequently charismatic personal leaders with an anointing from the Holy Spirit. (Judges 3:10, 14:6, 14:19, 15:14)
- The Holy Spirit enabled them to defeat the enemies of Israel in battle.
- This was an external anointing and did not seem to have much moral impact or inner transformation - particularly in Samson's case.
- Generally speaking wisdom and inner transformation comes from the Spirit "in" a person whereas as power and effectiveness come from the Spirit "upon" a person (Acts 1:8) It is not either/or but both/and for the Christian.
- Spiritual strength is a characteristic of good leaders that can be endowed by the Holy Spirit in a clear and unambiguous manner that is recognized by the community.

### **Libertarianism & Christian Anarchy**

- There is a strong Judaeo-Christian tradition that all hierarchical government on earth is under the control of evil powers and principalities and therefore both evil and unnecessary. This is represented by thinkers as diverse as Noam Chomsky (Jewish) and Leo Tolstoy (Orthodox Christian) and Jacques Ellul (evangelical)
- They point out that all forms of "archy" (monarchy, theocracy, democracy..etc) have a tendency to resist God's will.
- They believe that all government services should be provided by the private sector.
- They are generally pacifists.
- They read the OT as the time of Judges being the "ideal" and the monarchy "the great mistake" and base this on verses such as: 1 Samuel 8:7-22, 10:19, 12:17,18
- They are opposed to globalization, one world government, and to organizations such as the IMF and World Bank.
- They advocate a high level of personal freedom and minimal government.

### **Tensions between security and liberty lead to the rise of Saul and the kingship.**

- The desire for military leadership led to the choice of Saul as King. (1 Samuel 8:19,20)
- This was also due to Samuel's failure to bring his corrupt sons into line (who he had made leaders in Israel) 1 Samuel 8:3
- Disgust with present corruption and the desire for security and military strength have repeatedly given rise to oppressive dictators. (e.g. Russian revolution)
- How can we apply this to the Philippines today?

### **(Group exercise - comment on the following quotations...)**

Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom.

**Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955), 'Out of My Later Years,' 1950**

The basis of a democratic state is liberty.

**Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC), Politics**

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.

**Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790), Historical Review of Pennsylvania, 1759**

Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it.

**George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950)**

The First Amendment is often inconvenient. But that is besides the point. Inconvenience does not absolve the government of its obligation to tolerate speech.

**Justice Anthony Kennedy (1936 - )**

While the State exists, there can be no freedom. When there is freedom there will be no State.

**Lenin (1870 - 1924), "State and Revolution", 1919**

Liberty is not a means to a higher political end. It is itself the highest political end.

**Lord Acton**

Nobody can give you freedom. Nobody can give you equality or justice or anything. If you're a man, you take it.

**Malcolm X (1925 - 1965), Malcolm X Speaks, 1965**

You can't separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom.

**Malcolm X (1925 - 1965), Malcolm X Speaks, 1965**

It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either of them.

**Mark Twain (1835 - 1910), Following the Equator (1897)**

People demand freedom of speech as a compensation for the freedom of thought which they seldom use.

**Soren Kierkegaard (1813 - 1855)**