

## Episode #517 Judges 3 Part 1 – The Missing Years

I. In the book of Judges, we have a brief record of the early history (the first centuries) of the history of the land of Israel. We see the leaders God chose, judges, who ruled under Jehovah, the King. Through the lives and work of these judges, we can learn about God's works and ways.

II. The second servitude: Moab.

- A. Judges 3:12. Israel do the same evil again before Jehovah, so He raises up Eglon (Calf-Like) King of Moab (From a Father, Lot's oldest daughter's son's name and nation).
- B. Judges 3:13-14. He allies with Ammon (Tribal, the nation of Lot's youngest daughter) and Amalek, the wicked Canaanite tribe, and defeated Israel. City of palm trees = Jericho (Deuteronomy 34:3). This is an eighteen year servitude.

III. The Missing Years of Judges.

- A. In Pisidian Antioch in Acts 13, Paul gives a statement regarding the length of the period of Judges.
- B. Acts 13:18. Forty years of Israel wandering in the wilderness. 40 years total.
- C. Acts 13:19-20. Four hundred and fifty years of Joshua and Judges. 490 years total.
- D. Acts 13:21. Forty years of Saul son of Kish as king. 530 years total.
- E. Acts 13:22. David as king. Paul stops numbering here, but I Kings 2:11 gives us the total as forty years. 570 years total.
- F. In I Kings 6:1, we learn that Solomon, David's son, started building the temple in his fourth year. So if we take three years until he started the temple, it was five hundred and seventy-three years from the exodus from Egypt to the beginning of the temple being built, according to Paul's numbers.
- G. Yet in I Kings 6:1, it says it was four hundred and eighty years. This is a 93 year difference!
- H. What was the problem here? Was Paul wrong? Or was the author of I Kings wrong? Why is there this discrepancy?

IV. Paul's numbers considered.

- A. The knee-jerk response is to say that Paul was wrong. After all, he was far removed from these actual events. But does this make sense?
- B. Paul had many viscous critics in the crowd. Acts 13:45. If he had made an obvious error in fact such as this, these men, who were experts in the Old Testament, would have called him on it. But they did no such thing!
- C. What if we add Paul's numbers up ourselves?
  1. 20 years to take the land.
  2. Served Mesopotamia 8 years, Judges 3:8. 28 total.
  3. Othniel judged 40 years, Judges 3:11. 68 total.
  4. Served Moab 18 years. Judges 3:14. 86 total.
  5. Ehud and Shamgar judged 80 years. Judges 3:30. 166 total.
  6. Served Canaan 20 years. Judges 4:3. 186 total.
  7. Deborah and Barak 40 years. Judges 5:31. 226 total.
  8. Served Midian 7 years. Judges 6:1. 233 total.
  9. Gideon judged 40 years. Judges 8:28. 273 total.
  10. Tola judged 23 years. Judges 10:2. 296 total.

11. Jair judged 22 years. Judges 10:3. But...he was only over Gilead east of Jordan. Did not count for all Israel. Still 296 total.
12. Served Ammon 18 years. Judges 10:8. But...they were only over Gilead east of the Jordan. Did not count for all Israel. Still 296 total.
13. Jephthah mentions 300 years in Judges 11:26. This fits with what we have seen so far. It was indeed 300 years!
14. Jephthah judged 6 years. Judges 12:7. 306 total.
15. Ibzan judged 7 years. Judges 12:9. 313 total.
16. Elon judged 10 years. Judges 12:11. 323 total.
17. Abdon judged 8 years. Judges 12:14. 331 total.
18. Served the Philistines 40 years. Judges 13:1. 371 total. (Note: Samson judged, but never finished delivering them, so does not count here.)
19. Eli judged 40 years. I Samuel 4:18. 411 total.
20. Samuel judged "all the days of his life" until he was old, I Samuel 7:15. If we take this as 40 years then we have about 451 years, or just about what Paul said, 450 years from entering the land to Saul! So Paul was exactly right.
21. Why, then, does I Kings 6:1 say 480 years? Was the author of I Kings wrong?

#### V. The servitude years.

- A. Notice the language in Judges 3:8. The LORD sold them to Mesopotamia. So they were serving them, not the LORD, for this time! 8 years total.
- B. Served Moab 18 years. Judges 3:14. 26 years total.
- C. Served Canaan 20 years. Judges 4:3. 46 total.
- D. Served Midian 7 years. Judges 6:1. 53 total.
- E. Served Ammon 18 years. Judges 10:8. But...they were only over Gilead east of the Jordan. Did not count for all Israel. Still 53 total.
- F. Served the Philistines 40 years. Judges 13:1. 93 total.
- G. Note: 93 years is the exact difference between Paul's numbers and I Kings 6:1's numbers!  $573 - 480 = 93$  years difference. So the difference is in the years of servitude!

#### VI. Time reckoning methods.

- A. Hosea 1:9. God calls Israel "Lo-Ammi" or "not My people" for a time.
- B. Hosea 1:10. Later He calls them Ammi, His people, once again.
- C. During the time when the LORD sold His people to others, He called them Lo-Ammi, not His people. Thus, God's "clock" stopped during this time even though the world's clock continued, as it always does. This is called Anno Dei (according to God) time versus Anno Mundi (according to the world) time.
- D. While the world's clock (Anno Mundi time) proceeded during the servitude of His people, God's clock (Anno Dei) time stopped. Thus, I Kings 6:1 lists the time according to God's clock (Anno Dei), which did not include the 93 years of Israelite servitude. Paul, speaking in Pisidian Antioch, gives the world's clock (Anno Mundi). Thus both give the correct time by their own method of reckoning!

VII. When God sent His salvation-bringing gospel to all nations (Acts 28:28), His prophetic clock stopped once again. The work to bring in the kingdom of God that He started in the gospel period and continued in the Acts period has been suspended. Just as Hosea 1:10 says, however, God's clock will someday start again, and He will take up where He left off to bring in His kingdom, as He always promised.