

Paging Through the Scriptures

Reflections on the Need for Reformation

Selected Scriptures

1. Reformations Under the Judges (Heb 11:32)

A. Deborah and Barak (Judges 4-5)

The prophetess and the military leader were used in tandem by God in order to deliver the people from their oppressors and encourage faithfulness to God.

B. Gideon (Judges 6-8)

God used him mightily to deliver them from Midian. However, while he was a mighty leader and proved to man who trusted in God, his leadership at home was woeful.

C. Samson (Judges 13-16)

There is almost no mention of religious reform under Samson, he was certainly chosen by God and set apart by God to be God's gracious deliverer.

D. Eli (1 Sam 1-4)

Eli taught Samuel and judged Israel for many years, but his own sons were wicked (1 Sam 1:3; 2:12-17).

E. Samuel (1 Sam 7-12)

Samuel judged Israel and was the mouthpiece of judgment upon Saul for his disobedience to God, but his own sons were wicked (1 Sam 8:1-5).

2. Reformations Under the Kings

A. Hezekiah's Reformation (2 Kings 18:1-6)

B. Josiah's Reformation (2 Kings 22-23)

3. Other Reformations

A. Nineveh's Great Awakening under Jonah (Jonah 3:1-4:2)

Perhaps the single greatest evangelistic success story in history was accomplished by God through an unwilling prophet to a wholly pagan people.

B. Ezra's Reformation (Ezra 7:1-10; Neh 8:1-8)

Ezra's example led to the tradition of reading and explaining the Scriptures during normal public occasions.

4. After a Reformation: A Summary (Judges 2:18-19)

Following reformation in the judges, and in the pattern of the kings, the people would not merely go back to the same wickedness as before – but they would go to further depths of wickedness and rebellion.