

Falling from Faithfulness: The Book of Judges There Was No King

Judges 17:6 - In those days there was no king in Israel. ~~Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.~~

Judges 18:1 - In those days there was no king in Israel.

Judges 19:1 - In those days, when there was no king in Israel,

Judges 21:25 - In those days there was no king in Israel.

Intro:

Skinny Mirror on Shark Tank – not dealing with reality

- retailers, clothing stores
- bad self image
- rejected

The book of Judges is a mirror. **Block:** “No book in the Old Testament offers the modern reader ^{in the} church a telling a mirror as this book.” The book of Judges deals with harsh realities which result in the realization the ^{which reveals there was no king} “there was no king.”

This has been a week of harsh realities. The events have brought life into perspective, a perspective that our culture often leaves us unaware of. However, unlike the book of judges, this week’s events and the painful realities have revealed to us, “There is a King”

I’d like to share with you some things that I have been witness to in regards to this difficult episode in the life of the Ngabwe family and in our lives as well.

The Need for a King

Throughout the book of Judges we see the downward spiralling of God's people. The religious, moral, and social degradation is a significant theme of the book. It is clear that this degraded existence is a result of their own lack of faithfulness; everyone did what was right in their own eyes is the refrain that is tagged on to the declaration "there was no king."

And, "There was no king" is the theological commentary of the author. As the author has relayed the stories of the Judges and failing of God's people, he clearly implies that if Israel has a king, things wouldn't be this way. *human + divine*

As you follow the biblical narrative, you come to realize—in the books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles—that eventually Israel has kings. And, ultimately, *things* this didn't turn out any different. God's people still fell from faithfulness and continually betrayed their God. Was the author of Judges wrong in implying that Israel needed a king? *no, he will see he wasn't* No. However, what the continued story of Israel indicates is *is* that God's people need a certain kind of king. In fact, they need a king who is greater than all of their problems. They need a powerful king who could overcome their own weaknesses and failings. The need a "capital K" king.

The story of the Bible informs us that the great king they needed eventually came. And his greatness was found in the fact that he was not only a man, but that he was God himself. And King Jesus lived among his people. And he showed his people how to live in perfect faithfulness to God. And in his perfect faithfulness to God he was obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. King Jesus died for his people, in their place. He died to save them from sin, and their sins, and the punishment those sins require. He showed his kingly greatness by his death which brought them *to those who believe and trust in him for their redemption* forgiveness, and reconciled them to their God who adopted them into his family. And perhaps he showed his greatness in the most powerful way by also defeating death. After dying, King Jesus rose from the dead.

The horrendous events in the time of the Judges left God's people with a profound sense of the absence of a great king who could help them. The tragic events of the past week have left me with a profound sense of the presence of a great king who has saved us, is saving us, and will save us. I would like to share with you a bit of what I have witnessed that has left me wondering where the king was, but convinced of the King's presence in the lives of his people. *not*

Small Blessings

I've sensed the great King's presence through the surprising support of small blessings.

- OPP
- Sara
- Ian

• Grandparents • Jones

Psalm 40:16-17 ESV

But may all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation
say continually, "Great is the Lord!"
As for me, I am poor and needy,
but the Lord takes thought for me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
do not delay, O my God!

and King

Our Great Lord knows we are needy, but he takes thought for us. King Jesus made his presence known through small but powerful blessings. We are not without a great King in the midst of pain, tribulation, and difficulties. The great King was making his presence known.

Faithful Prayers

I've sensed the presence of a great King in the support of His people's prayers.

- Continual messages of the King's people praying

Psalm 50:15 ESV

and call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

- Kendra at Funeral home

The King made his presence known in the prayers of his people

Keep praying

Loving Care

John 13:34-35 ESV A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

King Jesus declared that his presence would be discernable through the love that his people show to one another.

- Offers of help from strangers
- McDougalls
- Moses – single, childless man visiting children

Image Bearing

We are to resemble our King. We are saved to be conformed to his image. People ought to be able to see King Jesus in us. And I saw him. I saw him in and through two of his image bearers. I saw him in two of his people who were and are walking through a horrific and painful experience of which I cannot fathom. I pray that you will see our great King as well.

1. **Matthew 22:15-22 ESV** Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said, “Caesar's.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

- a. Mario and Kendra and Dr. Singh

I saw King Jesus in Kendra and Mario

2. **Matthew 26:39 ESV** And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."
 - a. Mario in the waiting room – "We prayed for a miracle. We didn't get the miracle we wanted. We will get a miracle, but it's not the one we were hoping for ... I'm ok with that."
 - b. Other visitors watching

3. **1 Peter 2:21-23 ESV** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.
 - a. The King, in his suffering for you and I, entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. I saw King Jesus through his joint-heirs, Mario and Kendra, as the entrusted themselves to the one who judges justly.
 - b. They recognized God's sovereignty.
 - c. Not naïve...not like making sandwiches. Pain, confusion, doubt. But they entrusted themselves to their sovereign God. I sensed the King in this; Jesus is the only possible explanation.

d. #His well - Kendra

I have seen an image of the King in his image bearers and he has made his presence known!

Big Jesus

Jared Wilson – pastor, author, speaker at Corporis: “Be big Jesus!”

Mario and Kendra serve a big Jesus. They serve a great King. And their great King Jesus made himself known, made his presence felt, as they walked through this trial. My hope and prayer this morning, and their hope and prayer this morning, is that you would all see King Jesus in the midst of the pain, heartache, and uncertainty that this sort of tragedy opens us up too.

In the time of the Judges, there was no King. But in our time, there is a King. His name is Jesus. And he is a big King. And he died to save us. And he died that we might not die, but live eternally with him. And he is with us now, in and through everything we experience. Will you see the Great King?