

THE HEADSHIP OF CHRIST

By
Barbara Samuel

Pt. 1 Who Rules Over Israel?

We recently have been doing some studies in the book of Judges. And as I continue to read of the glorious victories that God wrought for Israel when He brought them into the land of Canaan, the Lord keeps taking me into the Psalms. And so many of them are glorious songs of praise to the Lord God: many extolling the fact that HE REIGNS. And this is an issue that God had to settle with His people Israel, and one that He still must deal with us about today. And this issue has two parts: first - accepting that the Lord God rules over everything! **Psalms 47:1:** *“O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. 2: For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth. 3: He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet. 4: He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah. 5: God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. 6: Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. 7: For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. 8: God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness. 9: The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong*

*unto God: he is greatly exalted.” He is secure on His Throne and **rules in the earth!***

And that is so important for us to realize: that He rules not only in “Heaven”, but He rules in the earth. **Psalms 93:1:** *“The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved. 2: Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting. 3: The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. 4: The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea. 5: Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever.”* Consider the assurance we have here: His Throne, His Rule, His Authority is established forever! **Psalms 97:1:** *“The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof... 7: Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him, all ye gods. 8: Zion heard, and was glad; and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of thy judgments, O LORD. 9: For thou, LORD, art high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods.”* He is exalted above all other gods, and all who worship other gods will be put to shame. This is the Reality of Heaven – His Ruling Authority, but I want us to understand that this is the reign that Jehovah has brought into the earth.

And that brings up the second issue because God’s Reign is to be **in the hearts of His people**. He desires to possess and rule in them so that His Rule may be seen in the earth: to unbelievers so that they would turn to Him – The True and Living God. I am reminded here of what God did when the

Philistines took the Ark of The Covenant of The God of Israel and brought it into the house of their god, Dagon. We read of this in 1 Samuel chapter 5. The first night the idol fell on its face, and they put him back up. But the second night he not only was on the floor, but his head and hands were cut off! And through this the Philistines recognized the Rule and Power of the Lord God of Israel - there, in the earth, and they got rid of the Ark! They recognized that the God of Israel was more powerful than their god!

But in all of these “stories”, and especially as we read of the mighty deliverances in the book of Judges, **God was seeking to establish His Rule in them.** He showed them His Power so they would trust Him and allow Him to rule IN THEM – in everything. HE WAS TO BE THE RULING AUTHORITY FOR HIS PEOPLE: exercising HIS Rule IN THEM. And this is something I know the Lord is seeking to do in us. The victory over the enemy that is “without” is not the most important thing: even though it so often is to us. The most important thing for God is His Rule IN US! And His Rule allows for no one or nothing else to rule. This is something the Lord has dealt with me a great deal about through these studies: it is the condition of the heart. And the question is: are you single-minded for Him, and bringing all other influences and your own will and thoughts into subjection to His Rule? And I want to emphasize something: we can’t just let him “be” with us, as if He is “our” traveling companion as WE go through this life on earth. We must let HIM rule in us: otherwise we’ve got problems! And when I considered this, I recognized that even though we call Him “Lord” and “King”, generally we fail to realize that because He is Lord and King, His nature is a “Ruling nature”. And if we truly are knowing Him as Lord and King, we will allow

Him to Rule – in us. And if we are denying Him His Right to Rule in us, then we are denying HIM: not allowing Him to be – in us – who He is. HE IS LORD!

And this is the issue that sums up the book of Judges and their cycles of prosperity but then decline and defeat; but then calling on the Lord who delivered them. The reason for this was there was no king: there was no single power ruling in Israel! **Judges 21:25:** “***In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.***” The problem then for Israel (and this is also a problem for us today) is they did not let Jehovah Rule as their King over them continually. And remember that to Israel He was not just “God The Creator”. To them He was JEHOVAH: His Name of Covenant Relationship with them. He was “their God”, and they were “His People”. This is Who He was to those who He had redeemed unto Himself and brought them into this Covenant Relationship, and He dwelt in the midst of them. And because they did not allow HIM to be ruling continually over every aspect of their lives, they turned to other gods. They remained religiously worshiping some god – although not their God, not their Jehovah God who they were in Covenant with. But they joined themselves with the gods of the people of the land.

And this is something that God had warned them against. **Deuteronomy 7:1:** “*When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; 2: And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them,*

and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: 3: Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. 4: For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. 5: But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire. 6: For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.” God desired that Israel maintain their special Relationship with Him, and He would be faithful to them because they were HIS People, but sadly they were not faithful to Him. He wanted them to be a people who were separated unto Him so that they could be the Testimony of Who He was in the earth, but they refused Him and His Rule. They allowed **themselves** to decide things, rather than Their Reigning Jehovah, and the results were disastrous!

But as we read in the book of Judges because of God’s Love for His People and His Mercy towards them God continually raised up Judges (Deliverers) who would bring back God’s Rule to Israel so that they could be delivered from the enemy. And when those Judges lived and ruled in Israel, there was peace in the land and Israel lived as God had intended them to live, in union with Him. But when the Judges died, Israel once more reverted back to ruling themselves. **Judges 2:16:** *“Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. 17: And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and*

*bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so. 18: And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. 19: And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; **they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.**”*

But throughout this time God wanted to establish HIS Rule – in His People – continually and for everything. And I really do think that we need to seriously consider this. We are not talking about man’s rule over God’s People. And I think sadly we have to admit there is a lot of that in religions (not just Christianity) today. Now I know there are those set in place in The Body of Christ to exercise authority, but in them it still must be God’s Rule – operating in that vessel continually. Otherwise it will turn into the rule of flesh very quickly, and that has caused catastrophes for many of God’s People.

Remember when God brought a people out of Egypt and called them into a Relationship with Himself, He told them that He and He alone would be their God (Thou shalt have NO other gods before Me), and they would be His People, a special Treasure to Him. **Exodus 19:3:** *“And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; 4: Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles’ wings, and brought you unto myself. 5: Now therefore, if ye will*

obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.” All He asked was that they be OBEDIENT to Him. And God desired that He and He alone would Rule over Israel – as their God. He was right there in their midst to keep them as His Own, and He wanted them to stay in Union, in Covenant with Him always. Now He remained faithful and was able to do all that He promised, but the problem was that Israel – God’s People did not allow HIM to rule completely in them. And because of that they suffered defeat and difficulties, and for many – death. But the greatest tragedy is that they suffered a loss of FELLOWSHIP with their God. This is something that truly grieves the heart of God. Now all of these “stories” are set forth in the scriptures for our admonition: so that we don’t suffer a similar fate. So I challenge us today – **who rules over us?**

Pt. 2

The Issue of Headship

Now as we continue to consider the Lord’s People coming to live in the fulness of their Covenant Relationship with their God, we are confronted in the Scriptures, and also I know in the Lord’s dealings with us, with the issue of **HEADSHIP**. And by this I mean the Ruling Authority in the lives of God’s People. The “Kingdom of God” means His Rule: the absolute Rule of the King over everything that relates to His People. And it is important that we understand this is not just “A”

King, but “THE” King. And the functioning Headship of the King is vitally important to God’s People. It is not sufficient that there simply be an acknowledgment of The King. He IS King, and He does have the Authority to Rule. That should not be in question for us. But we must let The Lord – Who IS King – Rule and Reign and Establish His Kingdom. And that will be first in us! We must allow the “functioning” of His Headship over us in all things.

We have read the underlying problem with Israel during the time of the Judges. **Judges 21:25:** *“In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”* And unless and until we allow The Lord to exercise HIS Lordship, HIS Headship over us, we will allow the flesh (either ourselves or other men) to rule over us, which is not what God intended for His People. This issue of Headship is dealt with under the Old Covenant in type. **Isaiah 6:1:** *“In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple... 5: Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”* Notice that there is an effect from seeing The King, The Lord of Hosts sitting upon His Throne with all of His Authority. But what I want us to see that is important here is the death of King Uzziah. He was A King in Jerusalem and he did great things, but something happened to this King. **II Chronicles 26:16:** *“But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.”* He was NOT a priest and he could not go into the Temple and take on Priestly duties. But HE thought HE

could, functioning in the strength of HIS flesh: not honoring The King who was to be ruling over all, and he ended up with leprosy! And it was only **after** King Uzziah (the King of flesh who tried to take the real King's place) DIED, **then** The Lord was exalted and seen in His proper place with His full power. And this is always an issue: who rules – man or God; flesh or Spirit; death or Life? If the flesh is still alive and ruling, usurping The Lord's Place, then we will not see and experience The Rule of The Lord.

Now the issue of "Headship" has already been settled in God's Mind and we certainly do not make Him King and Head – He is! Do you remember with Saul and David, the issue was who was God's choice to be King? Was Israel to have the rule of a man who looked like a King in their own eyes, or the King that God had ordained and anointed to Rule over His People? God allowed Saul to be King to placate the demand of Israel for "A" King, so they would be like the other nations. But God didn't want them to be like other nations. HE wanted to Rule them so that all other nations would know that they were different because of their Jehovah God. And we know that Saul's disobedience to the Lord (which he thought was obedience) could not be tolerated, and God rejected him from being King. God needed The King who would be faithful and obedient to Him! And finally Israel recognized that even when Saul ruled, David still was **God's King** and finally they came to acknowledge him as such. **II Samuel 5:1:** *"Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. 2: Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over*

Israel.”

It is the same thing with us. We simply must accept and acknowledge God’s Headship – yes, over “everything”, but most especially over US. And we must allow for the functioning of Him as our Head. And by “Head” we are speaking of the Chief, the Leader, the Ruler. This is something God was establishing in type with Israel especially at the time of the Judges, and I know He must deal with us in this regard also. Without the Lord functioning as Head, we fail to enjoy true Oneness with Him. And I want to emphasize again the “functioning”: HE will always BE Head and function as that. We must allow Him to function as The Head that He is – to us.

So I want to emphasize that the issue of “Headship” is vitally important to us as God’s People. We must come to know The Head, The King, The Rule that God has established for us. This was conceived Eternally in the Heavenlies by God, spoken of in the Old Testament in types and shadows, but **fulfilled in the very Person of Christ by His Cross**. So, consider these scriptures:

- **Ephesians 1:19:** *“And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20: Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21: Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22: And hath put all things under his feet, and **gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23: Which is his body, the fulness***

of him that filleth all in all.”

God showed us His Mighty Power when He raised Christ from the dead and set HIM at His right hand (position of all authority): far above all other powers and names, and gave HIM as THE Head over all things to the Church. But this is not a building or a religion, but HIS Body, the fulness of HIM! And He as The Head of His Body, fills it with Himself! The Relationship God has brought His People into is of Oneness – One Body with Christ as Head, as Source, as King, as Life, as ALL to the members of His Body. And in order for us to experience the fulness of this Relationship we must see we are not just “members of the Body”, but we must recognize that HE is The Head of The Body – HIS Body, and we are not separate from Him. And we must acknowledge that He rules all things – for His Body, and fills it with Himself. This is what God has done by The Cross of Christ. And we now must agree to His Headship.

And I think it is important to understand that in The Resurrection God raised both Head and Body – as One, and we now are The Body of His Resurrection. **Ephesians 2:6:** *“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”* In the Reality of The Finished Work of the Cross Christ has not “gone to Heaven” and left us here – in the earth by ourselves without a Head. If that were true, we would be a corpse – no Life! But He IS The Head of His Resurrection Body, who we are, and we are to give expression of that Relationship here in the earth. And His Body only has ONE Head – and that is HIM! In our “religious zeal” we make “men” the head of our churches, and give them authority and praise, but to God there is only ONE Head, and that is The One that God raised from the

dead – Jesus Christ The Lord! And anything else is just the imaginations of man. And sadly if we allow the flesh to rule, flesh will try to take His Place: something that God will not allow. Remember God raised Him to be The Head over all things to His Church, and we must allow His Rule over us. This is what pleases The Father.

- **Colossians 1:16:** *“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18: And **he is the head of the body**, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”* **Everything** was created by and for HIM – talk about “Ruling Authority”! He is The Head of The Body, the Church, and the Purpose is that in all things HE might have the preeminence – in all things! This is what God determined for Christ – to be preeminent and rule over everything. We must give Him His rightful place, and not attempt to be Head over Him. We never will be!
- **Colossians 2:10:** *“And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:”* He is The Head of all principality and power, so we have to let Him be Head over us – and not man! We must find “our” completeness in HIM and not in ourselves. There is nothing lacking in Him, and as we see Him as Head to us we will not look outside of Him for anything, but find our contentment and fulfillment in Him.
- **Colossians 2:18:** *“Let no man beguile you of your*

*reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19: And **not holding the Head**, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.”* If we allow the rule of flesh (of man – even “good man”) we will be deceived and beguiled, and our Relationship with The Lord will suffer. And this will happen if we are not holding the Head: it is always Christ as THE Head (exclusively The Only One), The King! Because it is by The Head (the Reign of the Risen, Victorious Christ) ruling, that the rest of the Body is nourished and strengthened. And as we “hold Him as Head” (continually honoring and acknowledging His Rule in us and over us) we take on His Mind and Heart, and function as One with Him. And we become the presencing of His Kingdom come, His Rule in the earth. As we allow His Rule in us we no longer function as many members, or as a body (even a “religious” body) without a head, but we function as HIS Body, the fulness of HIM. This is what God desires for us.

But I want to caution us because the issue of “Headship” is so very vital to the functioning of God’s People. This is not man assuming a position of authority. This is CHRIST taking His Rightful Place over all things in His Body. And He works His Authority in us if we will allow Him, and submit ourselves to HIM so that we may grow up (come to full maturity) in Him – in all things. **Ephesians 4:15:** *“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which **is the head, even Christ: 16: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth,***

according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” The whole Body is enriched and strengthened by The Head operating in all the parts. This is sadly why we as The Lord’s Body are so weak: we are not holding HIM to be The Head that He is to us, and derive our Strength and Life from His Rule in us. So may the Lord truly show us that He is Head, and may we embrace His Headship over all things to us and allow Him to function as our Head in all things.

Pt. 3

Honoring Jehovah’s Headship

I would encourage you in conjunction with these lessons to do some reading in the book of Judges concerning the things that happened to Israel, even when they were in the land! Sadly we see failure, bondage to other nations, disobedience to God, and generally living separate from The Lord God who was in their midst. And through these Scriptures I can see more and more clearly that this tragedy centers around Israel not honoring Jehovah as their Head – continually – for everything. Although He was their God, their King, their Source and Strength for everything, and He was always in their midst, they did not look to Him continually for everything. They did not submit themselves to Him and allow Him to execute His Headship over them. And again, the word “Head” is important. It means Captain, Chief, First,

Highest Part, Principal, Ruler, Sum. And in essence, they really didn't know Who He was! They saw Him as Provider and Deliverer (just like we do), but did not know Him in the fulness and greatness of Who He was – to them! And especially during the time of the Judges God was trying to establish in their hearts His Headship over them in everything. He continually showed them Who He was and what He could do so that they would trust Him and honor Him in everything pertaining to them.

But Israel suffered greatly when they refused His Rule. They would gladly receive His provision and protection and deliverance, but when it came to letting Him RULE – they refused Him that place! And sadly we do the same thing. Now God continued to raise up Judges to deliver them, but it is important for us to understand that these Judges were not “superheroes” in themselves. They were each effective in delivering Israel because they honored God's Headship over themselves in being obedient to Him and His instructions. And Israel as God's People enjoyed rest and peace in the land when they followed the counsel of these Judges. God wanted them to learn that things went well for them when they lived daily in the understanding of His Headship – enjoying His Love, Protection, Provision, His Presence to undertake for them. God's Ruling brought REST to Israel. **Judges 3:11:** “*And **the land had rest** forty years...* **30:** *So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And **the land had rest** fourscore years...* **5:31:** *So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might. **And the land had rest** forty years.*” And this answers an important question for me: why don't we as God's People have REST – Rest for our souls, and tranquility in our hearts? We are generally as

anxious and perplexed as unbelievers, and that should not be so! But it is because WE refuse God's Headship over us! But when He Rules – there is Peace and REST! Jesus said in **Matthew 11:28**: *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”*

God's dealings with Israel is just the type of the Headship that **CHRIST** is to exhibit over His Body: those who are Born Again. We have established in the Scriptures that God raised Christ to be The Head over His Body, and to function with all Authority over them continually. His Headship is not in question – He IS Head: but we must honor His Rightful Authority over us (“always holding the head” – **Colossians 2:19**). Our daily living should demonstrate a sense of responsibility and accountability of our actions towards Him because of Who He is – to us: our Head. Let us consider this in view of the issue of the “Head” that we read about in **1 Corinthians 11**. This is speaking of Believers. **1 Corinthians 11:3**: *“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.”* We must see this in terms of “The Body of Christ” that we are, and that He is Head of that Body. It is the authority of CHRIST who always honors the Authority and Will of His Father that should be functioning in us and controlling us. We must submit to His Rule in all things over us because HE is The Head of His Body. This is primarily Spiritual. We must not use a Scripture like this to force the submission of women to men purely in the flesh as many have tried to do. Women should only submit to man IF Christ rules the man. And then both are submitting to His Headship, and honoring God. And if they are not submitting

to HIS Headship there will be trouble!

And the whole issue spoken of in this chapter is not simply whether men and ladies should wear “hats in church”. The “head covering” of hats and hair is only symbolic of **The Lord’s Headship**! The man should openly be demonstrating The Lord’s Rule over him, while the woman submits to this Rule. And the head covering speaks of this submission. From a historical standpoint, this Scripture also separated Christian women from prostitutes who often participated in the heathen worship services who shaved their heads and put on wigs. And the whole issue then was that there should be a tangible difference in the lives of people who are honoring God’s Headship over them – not just when they “go to church”, but continually. This is what God desires for His People. But sadly we have taken these Scriptures and made “hats and length of hair, and clothes” the issue that has ultimately divided God’s People, but still refusing The Lord’s Headship. God is not content with the SYMBOL of His Headship on our heads: He desires His Rule in our hearts!

But let’s look back in **Judges 10** and **11** to see how the Judge Jephthah honored Jehovah’s Headship. Remember we said that these Judges were effective because they allowed God to RULE THEM: they were obedient to Him. But Israel did not honor their God. God here is dealing with Headship for His People. **Judges 10:6:** *“And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him. 7: And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of*

the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon... **13:** Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more. **14:** Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation. **15:** And the children of Israel said unto the LORD, We have sinned: do thou unto us whatsoever seemeth good unto thee; deliver us only, we pray thee, this day. **16:** And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the LORD: and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel. **17:** Then the children of Ammon were gathered together, and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled themselves together, and encamped in Mizpeh. **18:** And the people and princes of Gilead said one to another, What man is he that will begin to fight against the children of Ammon? he shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.” They needed a “head” to fight for them so God raises up an illegitimate son of Gilead even after his brothers rejected him. **Judges 11:1:** “Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour, and he was the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat Jephthah. **2:** And Gilead's wife bare him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they thrust out Jephthah, and said unto him, Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou art the son of a strange woman... **6:** And they said unto Jephthah, Come, and be our captain, that we may fight with the children of Ammon. **7:** And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, Did not ye hate me, and expel me out of my father's house? and why are ye come unto me now when ye are in distress? **8:** And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, Therefore we turn again to thee now, that thou mayest go with us, and fight against the children of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead. **9:** And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, If ye bring me home again to fight against

the children of Ammon, and the LORD deliver them before me, shall I be your head?” But Jephthah recognized that the victory and deliverance would be by The Lord, as Jephthah honored Him as Head.

Now the Lord was faithful as Head and would honor those who are faithful to His Headship. **Judges 11:29:** *“Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon. 30: And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, 31: Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering. 32: So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; **and the LORD delivered them into his hands.**”* Jephthah vowed to honor The Lord by his vow: by offering up to the Lord whoever comes first out to meet him in this victory. And who was it? His daughter – his only child! **Judges 11:34:** *“And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter. 35: And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the LORD, and I cannot go back. 36: And she said unto him, My father, if thou hast opened thy mouth unto the LORD, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth; forasmuch as the LORD hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, even of the*

children of Ammon.” Both father and daughter honored Jehovah’s Headship over them personally and over Israel: they didn’t refuse to honor The Lord as Head just because it was painful to them! And this is a real challenge to us. It is “easy” to let God Rule when things go well with us. But if “bad things happen to us”, then we often forsake Him and refuse to honor Him and submit ourselves to Him gladly. But God wants us to trust Him in every situation and know that His Love will still sustain us, even if things are difficult for us.

Just an aside note: I do not believe Jephthah gave his daughter as a burnt sacrifice (God did not permit people to be sacrificed – the heathen did!), but she was given to The Lord as a virgin and would not have children for her father’s legacy. This was a full dedication to The Lord, leaving the house of Jephthah with no heir. But this is honoring The Head, and this is what we should be recognizing. You are not your own – you are **His**: and everything is for His honor and glory. And it is all because of the price that was paid: The Cross of Calvary! **I Corinthians 6:19:** *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20: For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”*

And this was the “spirit” that was necessary to be functioning in the Judges that God raised up during this time. But ultimately we must see that even though these Judges were simply men and had their own faults in the flesh, Jehovah’s Headship – His Plan and Will would prevail. And we see this with Samson. Samson was the last of the Judges in Israel before Samuel. And again Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and they were delivered into the hand of the Philistines

for 40 years! Samson's mother had been barren, but an angel appeared to announce she would conceive a son, but this boy was to be something special for the Lord's Purposes: a Nazarite unto God. **Judges 13:4:** *"Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: 5: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."* A Nazarite is one separated from the world and consecrated to the Lord. He was set apart for Sacred Purposes and his mother and the boy were to abstain from certain food or drink and from all impurity. Prohibiting the cutting of his hair was symbolic of **the Lord's Headship** in his life, and as we know from the sad history that follows, the source of his strength. But it is important that we understand that Samson's strength was not in his natural hair, but in his dedication of "his life" to the Lord. And the Nazarite also could not partake of anything from a vine, or touch a dead body: things that Samson was not faithful to as **Judges 14 and 15** shows us.

And in **Judges 16** we see Samson giving Delilah the secret to his strength, which she exploited to turn him over to the Philistines. **Judges 16:17:** *"That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man. 18: And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money*

in their hand. 19: And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.” Tragically Samson did not faithfully keep the Nazarite vow and honor God’s Headship, but Jehovah remained faithful, and He overruled even Samson’s defects to bring about His good Purpose for Israel. **Judges 16:30:** *“And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.”*

I know that most of us think we “know” the story of Samson, but I pray we are learning God’s lesson for us. Because we have been brought into this Relationship with God, **we must faithfully honor Jehovah’s Headship!** And even though WE fail, His Headship and Ruling Authority does not!

Pt. 4

God Establishing His Headship

I pray that the Lord has been dealing with your hearts as He has been with mine concerning the sad state of Israel during the time of the Judges, and that we are allowing the Lord to make application of these “stories” in our daily lives. Because of the Lord’s Presence in our midst, we should be enjoying all that the Lord has prepared for us. But because we – as Israel, God’s People do not let the Lord Rule totally in us and in our circumstances, most of us are not fully enjoying our Salvation, and have not enjoyed the **Rest of the Lord**.

And make no mistake about it: Rest for God’s People only comes when we allow HIM to Rule. We see this in type with the Judges that God raised up. **Judges 3:9**: “*And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. 10: And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim. 11: And **the land had rest** forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died.*” These Judges were ruled by the Spirit of God, and God wrought deliverance, defeating the enemies, and the land had REST. **Judges 5:31**: “*So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might. And **the land had rest** forty years.*” And that means to be at peace, quietness, be settled, be still. God’s people were to go forth in God’s Victory and Might in

the land – having Rest. And as we have often said during these lessons, the greatest enemy is not those without: but the enemy within. The Lord must Rule in our hearts so that we willingly submit to His Rule in every aspect of our lives. Only then can we experience HIS REST.

Hebrews 4 talks about entering into **HIS REST**, not just that God gives me a break from all of my difficulties. **Hebrews 4:1**: *“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it... 9: There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. 10: For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. 11: Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”* When we enter into HIS Rest we cease from our own works. And God wants us to be diligent to let Him Rule and work in us so that we enjoy His Rest. This is His Work in our hearts. **Colossians 3:15**: *“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”* And this means that we allow God’s Peace to govern and prevail – in us, in all things. And the word “let” implies we must allow Him to rule in us because we can refuse His Rule by our disobedience. So the question still remains: who is ruling in us? Me or Christ? And ultimately the issue is: flesh or Spirit? Who is functioning as Head? We either yield ourselves to the flesh, or to God’s Spirit.

And we must understand that to whom we yield ourselves will control us! And this is a very serious issue! **Romans 6:13**: *“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as*

instruments of righteousness unto God. 14: For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. 15: What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. 16: Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? 17: But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18: Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” We are implored not to yield ourselves (this is something WE do) to unrighteousness, but to God. You will either be servants of sin unto death (separation from God) or of obedience (to God’s Rule in you) unto Righteousness.

And this is a condition in our hearts, our minds first, even before this is translated into our actions. **Romans 8:6:** “*For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7: Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8: So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*” The carnal mind dictated by the flesh brings death, and is NOT subject to The Law of God: will NOT submit to His Rule. This is a very serious issue that we need to allow the Lord to deal with in our hearts. And this is why there must be a true Working of The Cross in us – to remove the flesh and all carnal thoughts and desires, and establish The Lord’s Headship over us in all things. Only then can we enjoy true Rest: being totally submitted to His Rule. And I just want to add that God desires that we do this “submission” with a cheerful and grateful heart: not hesitantly or begrudgingly, or out of what we perceive to be our religious dedication. We

should allow Him to Rule us because we love Him and trust Him and appreciate all that He has done for us!

And this is what God was doing during the time of the Judges: working to establish His Rule in them over everything. But sadly, time and time again they refused His Rule. We must really understand how strong the flesh is, and how much of “me” remains in us, in God’s People. The book of Judges spans over 300 years – of God being with them, but still each man continued to rule himself: by what was right in his own eyes! But for God, He continues to Work and the issue of The KING still is essential for Israel. And “King” means “His Rule”: God actively controlling everything for them. God’s view of King over Israel was never just to be a title: but the Authority and Power of The King was to be established as HIS Kingdom, and this was to differentiate Israel from other nations. And I hope that we are seeing that even though God brought judgment upon Israel during these days because of their disobedience, He was also showing His Love and Long-suffering, His Mercy and Kindness to His People, and His desire to rule in the midst of them as their God because they were HIS.

We know the issue of “no King ruling in Israel” was the cause of Israel’s failure during the time of the Judges, and sadly it is the cause of much of our failure even today. And so the issue of “King” and Kingdom and Headship is taken up now earnestly in **1 and 2 Samuel**. But ultimately we must see that God wanted to establish His Rule, His Headship in Israel. And this would only be done by establishing His King. And as we have said, it is not just a case of appointing “A” King. Israel found that out sadly when they insisted that they wanted a King, and God eventually allowed Saul to be King

over them. But Saul was NOT God's choice. It must be HIS King: and this is the Rule that God desires to establish in His people, not the rule of man. And God still works in His People this way today.

So this is how God continues to Work: establishing His Rule, His Headship in the People's hearts. And to end this sharing, I want to finish by looking briefly in the book of Ruth. Even though at the time of the Judges most of Israel were ruling themselves, and refusing their God until they "needed Him to deliver them", God continued to raise up those who were willing to submit to His Rule. We see this with Ruth, who was not of Israel, but a Moabitess. But she was willing to leave her land and all that she knew – not just to come to Bethlehem for food, but to **submit herself to the God of Israel, as her God**. **Ruth 1:16:** *"And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: 17: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me."* And we know the many blessings that Ruth experienced because she submitted herself willingly and thankfully to JEHOVAH'S RULE. And my prayer for us is that we would do the same! May we always Hold HIM to be THE HEAD that God has made Him to be, and may we look to Him for everything.

Published By
A Gathering Unto Christ in Spirit and Truth
5025 Solitude
St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00820
bbs1mermaid@gmail.com