

DOCTRINE FOR THE YOUNG

THE LORD OUR HERO

By the Rev. Grant R. Schnarr

We all remember the judges. They were men and women raised up by the Lord to defend the children of Israel against their enemies. There was Ehud, the left-handed Benjamite, Deborah the prophetess, Gideon, who fought against the Midianites, and Jephthah who defeated the Moabites. And of course there was Samson, the man of strength, who fought the Philistines over and over again during his life. Each one of these people was a hero in the sight of Israel. Each one of them rescued the children of Israel from their enemies. They were strong. They were courageous. They were loyal to the Lord. They were true heroes, freeing Israel from bondage.

To the typical reader of the Bible, the book of Judges must seem to be nothing more than a book of hero legends. And yet, there is so much more underneath its literal meaning. For each one of these judges represents the Lord. They represent the Lord as a Hero for us all.

Each one of us today may have someone who we consider our hero, someone we truly look up to with admiration, someone who has stood up to help others. But if you think about it, there is one Hero who stands far above all the rest, and that is the Lord Himself.

The Lord really is our Hero. When the evil spirits had taken over the world of spirits almost 2000 years ago, the Lord Himself came down from heaven to fight for us. While on earth, He fought against evil just like any other man. In fact, He suffered temptations far worse than ours. While in the human, He felt completely alone. He didn't know for sure that He would win. He felt as feeble and vulnerable as we do each day. And yet, the Lord as a man took on all the hells at once to save us. By Himself, He conquered every one of them. With His gentle words and wise sayings, He led men away from evil. He freed them from the slavery of the hells. If it weren't for Him, we wouldn't be here. But He came down and gave us back our freedom.

Even at the end of His life, when He was on the cross, and it looked like He had lost the battle, He had actually won His greatest victory. And although it is difficult or sad to think of Him on the cross, we should remember the words that He spoke. For these words were spoken victoriously and with great joy when he said, "It is finished." He had won, and would rise from the tomb with great power and majesty, as our true Hero and as our God.

It is good to have heroes in this world, people we can look up to, people to take care of us in times of need, just as the judges did for the Israelites. But let us never forget that there is one Hero we can all look up to. There is one Hero who is always ready to help us and lend a hand: the Lord Himself, the greatest Hero of all.

Texts: Judges 2:11-18; John 19:30.