

I. Introduction and review.

II. Deliverance is needed. v. 1-4

A. The siege of Jabesh-gilead. v. 1

1. Who are the Ammonites? Gen. 19 Dt. 2:19 Jdg. 3:13 10:7 11:4ff Am. 1:13
2. Nahash, the Ammonite King, was terrorizing Israel. 12:12
3. Jabesh-gilead had offered a conditional surrender. v. 1b Judges 21:8 Je. 34:18

B. Nahash demands the mutilation and humiliation of the people of Jabesh-gilead. v. 3

1. The loss of the right eye would disable the men from military service. Judg. 16:21
2. He wants to heap reproach on all of Israel. 17:26 25:39 II Sam. 10:4f Ezek. 36:15
3. Nahash is proud, confident and cruel. Amos 1:13-15

C. The elders of Jabesh seek a deliverer. v. 3-4

1. Why does Nahash agree to give them a week?
2. Did Jabesh-gilead have reason to expect help? Judges 21:8
3. Messengers arrive at Gibeah and the people weep. v. 4

D. Application.

1. Don't underestimate the danger tyrants pose. Amos 1:13-15
2. Don't underestimate the enemies of Christianity. Eph. 6:12 I Jo. 3:13 Jo. 15:18-19
3. God is opposed to the proud. Js. 4:6 I Pe. 5:5
4. We too need a Deliverer.

III. Deliverance is promised. v. 5-10

A. King Saul was still working as a farmer. v. 5

1. He still hasn't done anything kinglike.
2. Saul resembles the judges who preceded him.

B. The Spirit of God comes upon Saul and he becomes hot with anger. v. 6

1. God's Spirit rushes upon Saul to equip him to fight for God's people. 10:6,10
2. The Spirit had come upon other deliverers. Jdg. 3:10 6:34 11:29 14:6,19 15:14
3. The Spirit fills him with holy indignation. Acts 7:22
4. This verse is a key to the chapter. Deliverance comes not because Israel has a king, but because king has the Spirit of God.

C. Saul summons the militia. v. 7-8

1. What is the significance of hacking the oxen into pieces? v. 7a Judges. 19:29
2. Why does Saul refer to Samuel in his call to arms? v. 7b
3. Why does Saul get such a tremendous response? v. 7c-8 10:26

D. Messengers deliver the good news of salvation. v. 9-10

1. How can they be so sure of victory? v. 9a
2. The people rejoice that their savior is coming. v. 9b
3. The men of Jabesh deliver a cryptic message to the Ammonites. v. 10 8:20 18:30

E. Application: When is anger righteous?

1. There is such a thing as righteous anger. 28:18 II Sa. 6:7 22:8 24:1 Ex. 4:14 II Ki.

- 13:3 Nu. 25:4 Ps. 2:5,12 106:40 6:1 Je. 25:37 44:6 Is. 12:1 5:25 Mk. 3:5 Jo. 2:15-17
2. Anger can be good -- to motivate us to just action.
 3. Anger is also very dangerous. 20:30 Eph. 4:26-27 Pr. 14:17 15:18 29:22 14:29 25:28 Ecc. 7:9 Mt. 5:22ff Js. 4:1ff 1:19 Eph. 4:29
 4. How can we know if our anger is righteous? Js. 1:19-20
 - a. All our anger seems right at the time.
 - b. Righteous anger focuses upon God's rights, not our own.
 - c. We are not authorized to take personal vengeance. Rom. 12:17-21
 5. How can we overcome sinful anger?
 - a. Remember that God is judge. Gen. 50:19 Rom. 12:19
 - b. Remember that God is sovereign. Gen. 50:20 Rom 8:28
 - c. Remember that God's anger has graciously been turned away from you because of Christ. Eph. 4:32 Mt. 18:21ff

IV. Deliverance is provided and the deliverer is enthroned. v. 11-15

- A. Saul surprises the daylights out of the Ammonites. v. 11 Judges 7:16 9:36-37 Dt. 28:7 Num. 10:35
- B. Saul in victory shows mercy and gives glory to God. v. 12-13 10:27 19:5 II Sa. 19:22
- C. Samuel leads the people in renewing the kingdom at Gilgal. v. 14-15 13:7-14 10:10ff
 1. Which kingdom are they renewing? 12:12
 2. The people celebrate and worship God. v. 15b 10:8
- D. Application: We too are engaged in (spiritual) warfare.
 1. We are involved in warfare against wicked and ruthless foes. Eph. 6:12
 2. We do not fight with the weapons of the world, but with truth. II Cor. 6:7 10:4
 3. God equips us with His Spirit. v. 6 I Co. 12:7ff
 4. God gives us the victory. v. 13b I Co. 15:57 John 15:5
 5. The fact that God gives the victory doesn't mean that we don't have to exert effort. Eph. 6:10-11,13-18 II Co. 6:2-10
 6. We too should renew our allegiance to God's kingdom. Mt. 6:33

V. Concluding applications.

- A. Christ our King has brought deliverance.
 1. We needed deliverance.
 2. God promised deliverance for those who cry out to Him. Gen. 3:15
 3. Jesus has been empowered by the Spirit. Isa. 61:1-3 Luke 4:18-19 Mt. 3:16
 4. He has delivered us, removing our reproach. Isa. 25:8 Ezek. 36
 5. His kingdom is established and He is enthroned. Phil. 2:9-11 Ro. 1:4 Heb. 2:8ff I Co. 15:20
- B. Are you persuaded that this Man can save you? 10:27 I Ti. 1:15 Heb. 7:25

Discussion questions

1. How is our situation like that of the citizens of Jabesh-gilead?
What tyrants threaten us?
2. When is anger righteous?
3. What are the dangers of unrighteous anger?
4. How can we overcome sinful anger?
5. What is the nature of the warfare in which we engage?
6. How does this chapter point to the gospel?