

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible  
Current Book: Judges – verse by verse

Scripture(s) for Today: Judges 1:1-36 – the children of Israel begin to drift from God’s commands

Today’s Message:

**“Dangerous Drift”**



## INTRODUCTION

Last week, we celebrated our 8th anniversary as a church with the introduction of our new book and series. The children of Israel had all the makings of a great story. Joshua had led them to victory and now all they had to do was trust God and obey His words. Well, they started well! Today, we will discover their “Achilles’ heel” – spiritual complacency. An old preacher once said, “*Complacency is easy... it is a deadly foe of spiritual growth.*” Spiritual drift is indeed a silent spiritual foe. Did you know that a mere 1% drift off course over the course of 1 mile will land you nearly **100** feet off the goal? The book of Judges begins with a reminder of the **VICTORIES** experienced when God fought for His people and ends with the dangerous drifting of God's people away from His words of truth. Is it possible for you to drift like them **AWAY** from God? It is not only possible, but you have no doubt already started!

## LEARNING TOGETHER

### A. The Text Judges 1

**#1. Their History – God had used Moses and Joshua to PREPARE them well.**

- **God commanded these men and His people with words of truth and life.**
  - ✓ Moses **Deut 7:2-5; 12:2; 13:5; 20:17-20**
  - ✓ Joshua **Josh 2:10; 6:21; 8:26; 10:1, 28, 33-40, 42-43; 11:11-12, 20-23**
  - ✓ The plan was and is to “**utterly destroy**” the enemies living in the Promised Land!
    - **NO COVENANTS**
    - **NO MERCY**
    - **NO MARRIAGES**
    - **DESTROY THEIR ALTARS, BREAK DOWN THEIR IMAGES, CUT DOWN THEIR GROVES, AND BURN THEIR GRAVEN IMAGES WITH FIRE! Any questions?!?**

**#2. Their Victories – the LORD did what He PROMISED and led them to victory!**

- **Victory at Bezek**
  - ✓ They slew **10,000** men (**Lev 26:8; Deut 32:30**) and the Canaanites and Perizzites.
  - ✓ They caught **Adonibezek** (“*lord of lightning*”); cut off his **thumbs** and **great toes!**

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- **Victory at Jerusalem**
  - ✓ Joshua had previously cut off **the king** of Jerusalem’s **HEAD**. *Josh 10:23; 15:63*
- **Victories at Hebron and Debir**
  - ✓ Joshua had given Hebron to Caleb; he expelled the 3 sons of **ANAK!** *Josh 15:13-14*
  - ✓ God again (**2<sup>nd</sup> time**) tells of the bride asking her father for a **FIELD!** *Josh 15:15-19*
- **Victories at Zephath (city of Horman); Gaza, Askelon and Ekron (and their coasts)**
  - ✓ Judah and Simeon “**utterly destroyed**” the Canaanites – only **2** times in Judges!

**NOTE** As we arrive at **1:19**, we are feeling good about God’s people and their future!

### #3. Their Complacency – one-by-one Israel chooses to NOT drive out enemies!

➤ **It begins with Judah and ends with Dan...**

**W1828:**  
**“complacency”**  
 A feeling of contentment or self-satisfaction, especially when coupled with danger, trouble, or controversy

1. **Judah** “he drave out... but COULD not drive out the inhabitants of the valley...”
2. **Benjamin** “the children of Benjamin DID not drive out the Jebusites...”
3. **“Joseph”** “the house of Joseph... we will shew thee mercy...”
4. **Manasseh** “Neither DID Manasseh drive out... nor... nor... nor... nor...”
5. **Ephraim** “Neither DID Ephraim drive out...”
6. **Zebulun** “Neither DID... drive out... nor...”
7. **Asher** “Neither DID Asher drive out... nor... nor...nor... nor... nor... nor...”
8. **Naphtali** “Neither DID Naphtali drive out... nor... nevertheless...”
9. **Dan** “the Amorites forced the children of Dan...”

➤ **There were 4 reasons given by God**

- ✓ The enemy inhabitants of the valley **had chariots of IRON**. *1:19; Ex14:25; Ps20:7*
- ✓ They were willing to show the enemy **mercy for HELP**. *1:22-26; 1Sam15; Est3:1*
- ✓ When strong, **they chose to put the enemy to TRIBUTE**. *1:28,30,33,35; Lk 17:32*
- ✓ They **allowed the enemy** to “force” them into **DISOBEDIENCE**. *1:34; Acts 5:29*

**NOTE** As the old preacher said, “It is a sad thing when the people of God allow the world to crowd them into an awkward position!” What were they thinking?!?

### B. The Lessons (How can you apply this message to your life?)

1. There is **sin** in your life... you will not drive out because it seems **IMPOSSIBLE**.

❖ **Question:** How long are you going to halt between two opinions? **1Ki18:21; Rom6:1-14**

2. There is **sin** in your life... you will not drive out because of perceived **VALUE**.

❖ **Question:** What have you found in God that made you become so vain? **Jer2:5; Jn14:15**

3. There is **sin** in your life... you will not drive out because it will **OFFEND** someone.

❖ **Question:** Why are you so afraid to trust God’s words? **Am 7:13; Jn 7:24; 2Tim 4:16-17**

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