

Judges: Broken Heroes/Faithful God

JUDGES 1-2

Judges 21:25

In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own eyes. (see 17:6; 18:1; 19:1).

Judges 1:1-2, 4-7 (NLT)

After the death of **Joshua**, the Israelites asked the Lord, "Which tribe should go first to attack the Canaanites?" The Lord answered, "Judah, for I have given them victory over the land."

4 When the men of Judah attacked, the Lord gave them victory over the Canaanites and Perizzites, and they killed 10,000 enemy warriors at the town of Bezek.

5 While at Bezek they encountered King Adoni-bezek and fought against him, and the Canaanites and Perizzites were defeated. 6 Adoni-bezek escaped, but the Israelites soon captured him and cut off his thumbs and big toes.

7 Adoni-bezek said, "I once had seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off, eating scraps from under my table. Now God has paid me back for what I did to them." They took him to Jerusalem, and he died there.

Judges 1:19 (NLT)

The Lord was with the people of Judah, and they took possession of the hill country. But **they failed to drive out the people living in the plains**, who had iron chariots.

Judges 1:27 (NLT)

The tribe of Manasseh **failed to drive out the people** living in Beth-shean, Taanach, Dor, Ibleam, Megiddo, and all their surrounding settlements, because **the Canaanites were determined to stay** in that region.

Judges 1:28 (NIV)

When Israel became strong, they pressed the Canaanites into forced labor **but never drove them out completely**.

Judges 1:29-35 (NLT)

The tribe of Ephraim failed to drive out the Canaanites living in Gezer, so the Canaanites continued to live there among them.

30 The tribe of Zebulun **failed to drive out the residents** of Kitron and Nahalol, so the Canaanites **continued to live among them**. But the Canaanites were forced to work as slaves for the people of Zebulun.

31 The tribe of Asher failed to drive out the residents...

33 Likewise, the tribe of Naphtali failed to drive out the residents... Nevertheless, the people of Beth-shemesh and Beth-anath were forced to work as slaves for the people of Naphtali.

35 The Amorites were determined to stay in Mount Heres, Aijalon, and Shaalbim, but when the descendants of Joseph became stronger, they forced the Amorites to work as slaves.

Judges 2:1-3 (NIV)

The angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land I swore to give to your ancestors. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.' **Yet you have disobeyed me**. Why have you done this?"

“Therefore, I now say: I will not drive out these people before you. They will be thorns in your sides, and their gods will be a trap for you.”

1. Small areas of disbelief produce large areas of disaster.

- The evidence that we are walking by faith is full and absolute obedience.

Judges 2:10-13 (NLT)

After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the Lord or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel.

The Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight and served the images of Baal. They abandoned the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They went after other gods, worshiping the gods of the people around them. And they angered the Lord. They abandoned the Lord to serve Baal and the images of Ashtoreth.

Judges 2:14-15 (MEV)

The anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and He gave them into the hands of those who plundered them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies around them, so that they were no longer able to stand against their enemies.

15 Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them to bring **disaster**, as the Lord had said and as He had sworn to them. They were in great distress. Israel started to go after the gods of the people around them, and then **those people enslaved them**.

2. We choose between the God that frees and the gods that enslave.

- Idol = Anything that promises power, freedom, and happiness without God.

Judges 2:14-16 (MEV)

14 The anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and He gave them into the hands of those who plundered them... They were **in great distress**. Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.

Judges 2:18 (NLT)

Whenever the Lord raised up a judge over Israel, he was with that judge and rescued the people from their enemies throughout the judge's lifetime. For the Lord took pity on his people, who were burdened by oppression and suffering.

- The question is not **if** we will worship, only **what** we will worship.

3. Amnesia leads to apostasy (2:1, 10)

Judges 2:1 (NLT)

“I brought you out of Egypt into this land that I swore to give your ancestors, and I said I would never break my covenant with you.

Judges 2:10 (NLT)

After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not know the Lord or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel.