

Judges 1

Jesus

Introduction to the Book of Judges: First 300 years in Promised Land

- **No Central Government:** Confederacy of 12 Tribes
 - **Theocracy:** God direct ruler utilizing 12 Judges including Deborah, Gideon, Sampson
1. Years of Judges ruling during oppression **111 yrs.**
 2. Years of Judges ruling during periods of rest **299 yrs.**

- **Taking overlap of rest/oppression into consideration:**

1. Total period of Judges about **300 yrs.**
2. Time of Judges **1400-1100 BC**
3. Samuel being last judge before first King...Saul

- Israel not a great nation until David 1000 BC
- Now...Still at war with Canaanites and soon with each other

Contrasts **God's faithfulness** in Book of Joshua w/ **Israel's Apostasy** in Book of Judges
Picture of the harsh consequences of taking God's Salvation for granted

- Yet...God remains faithful to preserve remnant people for Himself

2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, **He remains faithful**; He cannot deny Himself.

- **Author and Date:**

1. Text spans centuries w/ no author identified
2. Compiled by different authors including Samuel

- **Purpose of Narrative:** Consequences of disobedience and ingratitude

Some like to read end of book to find out what it's about...

Judges 21:25 [Last verse of Judges] In those days there was **no king in Israel**; everyone did what was right **in his own eyes**.

Following false gods means following the dictates of your own heart

I. Continuing Conquest of Canaan

1 Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass that the children of Israel **asked the Lord**, saying, "Who shall be first to go up for us against the Canaanites to fight against them?"

- **Book of Joshua:** After the death of Moses
- **Book of Judges:** After the death of Joshua

Wars not over? Israel loses God's protection due to disobedience...

- **Commanded to utterly destroy the enemy...**

Deuteronomy 7:1 "When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to

possess, and has cast out many nations before you, 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 you, 2 and when the Lord your God delivers them over to you, you shall **conquer them and utterly destroy them**. You shall make no covenant with them **nor show mercy** to them. 3 Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. 4 For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. 5 But thus you shall deal with them: you **shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars**, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire. 6 "For **you are a holy people** to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

- **Disobedience revealed after Joshua's death...**

Joshua 24:23 [Joshua commanded] "**put away the foreign gods** which are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord God of Israel." ...**31** Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of the Lord which He had done for Israel.

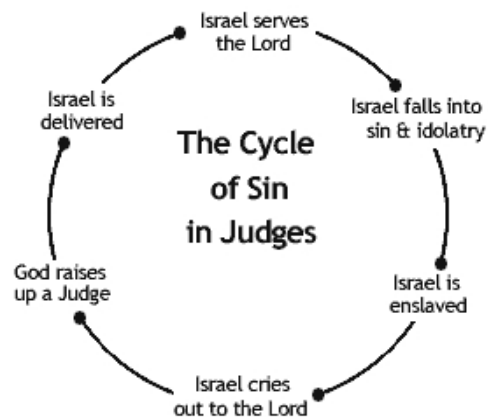
Judges 2:10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, **another generation arose** after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel. 11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals; 12 and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger.

- Second Generation not understanding the seriousness of sin
- Second Generation of believers in the land worse than first

1. Made covenants with Canaanites
2. Did not tear down altars to false gods

- **Cycle of Sin**

1. Israel serves the Lord
2. Israel falls into sin idolatry:
Dictates of own heart
3. Israel enslaved
4. Israel cries out to the Lord
5. God raises up a Judge
6. Israel is delivered
7. Israel serves the Lord...why not stay here?



- **After #2-3 From Idolatry to Enslavement...Israel now at #4**

Cry out to the Lord for help...

2 And **the Lord said**, "Judah shall go up. Indeed I have delivered the land into his hand." 3 So Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me to my allotted territory, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I will likewise go with you to your allotted territory." And Simeon went with him. 4

Then Judah went up, and the Lord delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand; and they killed ten thousand men at Bezek. 5 And they found Adoni-Bezek in Bezek, and fought against him; and they defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites. 6 Then Adoni-Bezek fled, and they pursued him and caught him and **cut off his thumbs and big toes**. 7 And Adoni-Bezek said, "Seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off used to gather scraps under my table; as I have done, so God has repaid me." Then they brought him to Jerusalem, **and there he died**.

- **Cried out to Lord and were victorious...who'd guess**

1. Canaanites/Perizzites defeated by Judah/Simeon 10,000 dead
2. Cut off thumbs/toes of Adoni-Bezek; lit. *Lord of Bezek* as he did to so many
3. W/out thumbs to hold sword and toes to run he died in Jerusalem

- **NOTE:** Did not kill him immediately [utterly destroy?]

8 Now the children of Judah fought against Jerusalem and took it; they struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire.

- **Fought/Took/Struck Jerusalem:** Didn't settle until yrs. later by David [2 Sam 5]
- Benjamin later tried/failed to cast out inhabitants of Jerusalem [see v21]

9 And afterward the children of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites who dwelt **in the mountains**, in the South, and in the lowland. 10 Then Judah went against the Canaanites who dwelt in Hebron. (Now the name of Hebron was formerly Kirjath Arba.) And they killed Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai. 11 From there they went against the inhabitants of Debir. (The name of Debir was formerly Kirjath Sepher.)

- Judah attacks both mountains/lowlands
- **Hebron:**

1. Previously captured by Caleb [Joshua 15] now recounted in Judges
2. Formerly known as Kirjath Arba meaning "City of Four" ...
3. Thus, Hebron probably a large city made up of 4 smaller communities
4. **Caleb v20 kills leaders of Hebron:** Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai

12 Then Caleb said, "**Whoever attacks Kirjath Sepher** and takes it, to him I will give my daughter Achsah as wife." 13 And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it; so he gave him his daughter Achsah as wife. 14 Now it happened, when she came to him, that she urged him to ask her father for a field. And she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you wish?" 15 So she said to him, "Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water." And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

- **Same as Joshua 15:15-19**

1. Caleb gives daughter to guy who attacks Kirjath Sepher
2. Caleb's daughter as bold as him: Give us the water rights to the land

16 Now the children of the **Kenite**, Moses' father-in-law, went up from the City of Palms with the children of Judah into the Wilderness of Judah, which lies in the South near Arad; and they went and dwelt among the people.

- **Children of the Kenite:** Moses father-in-law Jethro
- Israel now in good relations with Kenites; AKA Midianites due to Jethro

Kenites move from City of Palms [Jericho] with Judah south into Negev [Arad]; i.e. desert

17 And Judah went **with his brother Simeon**, and they attacked the Canaanites who inhabited **Zephath**, and utterly destroyed it. So the name of the city was called Hormah. 18 Also Judah **took Gaza** with its territory, **Ashkelon** with its territory, and **Ekron** with its territory.

- Judah **utterly destroys** Zephath called it Hormah: Dedicated to destruction
- **Should have called every Canaanite city Hormah...seemed to pick/choose**
- **Judah takes Gaza, Ashkelon, Ekron:** Modern Gaza Strip again fill w/Israel's enemies

19 So the Lord was with Judah. And they drove out the mountaineers, but they **could not drive out** the inhabitants of the lowland, because they had **chariots of iron**.

- The Lord was with Judah as they drove out the mountaineers
- Judah could not drive out those in lowlands...

Because they had Chariots of Iron

- **NOTE:** Iron used in Israel only after David conquered Philistines [2 Sam 12]

20 And they gave **Hebron to Caleb**, as Moses had said. Then he expelled from there the three sons of Anak.

- 80-year-old Caleb takes out giants

21 But the children of Benjamin **did not drive out the Jebusites** who inhabited Jerusalem; so the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

- Other tribes beside Judah/Simeon join in.

Tribe of Benjamin did not drive the Jebusites out of Jerusalem
Tribe of Benjamin dwells with these Canaanites "to this day"

- **Hint to when this section written:** Before David took Jerusalem 1000 BC

Judah *could not* drive out the enemy...too strong?
Benjamin *did not* drive out enemy so they settled to dwell with the enemy

22 And the house of Joseph also went up against **Bethel**, and **the Lord was with them**. 23 So the house of Joseph sent men to **spy out Bethel**. (The name of the city was formerly Luz.) 24 And when the spies saw a man coming out of the city, they said to him, "Please show us the entrance to the city, and we will **show you mercy**." 25 So he showed them the entrance to the city, and they struck the city with the edge of the sword; but they let the man and all his family go. 26 And the man went to the land of the Hittites, built a city, and called its name Luz, which is its name to this day.

- **Tribe of Joseph now moves out to Take Bethel**
- Spies interrogate citizen of Bethel leaving the city
 1. Shows entrance to Bethel then known **as Luz**
 2. Joseph takes the city
 3. Man/family shown mercy. Leaves and builds another city w/same name...Luz
 4. **Luz:** Deceit/Perversion now modern Turkey
- Mercy not God's will in this case...Enemy is a picture of sin

Deuteronomy 7:2b...You shall make no covenant with them **nor show mercy** to them

Takes his deceit/Perversion starts over somewhere else that will have to be dealt with later

- Re-locating/Re-habilitating sin only postpones the inevitable

Luke 11:24 "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' 25 And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. 26 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first."

- **AA/NA:** Just because we stop drinking/drugging does not mean we are saved
- Must be emptied of sin AND filled by God's Holy Spirit. New Creation

Sin cannot be re-located/re-habilitated. It must be reckoned dead

- **Bethel:** House of God. Named by Jacob years before...

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| 1. Abraham's first Altar builder | Gen 13:3 | First altar of this altar |
| 2. Jacob's Dream | Gen 28:12 | Ladder set Earth to Heaven |

- Jacob named **Bethel**/Canaanites re-name **Luz**. Israel retakes/renames it **Bethel**

SUMMARY Continuing Conquest of Canaan

- Tribes have relatively good success in the southern sections of Promised Land
- **Not so much in the North...**

II. Incomplete Conquest of the Land Compromise

27 However, **Manasseh did not drive** out the inhabitants of Beth Shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its

villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages; for the Canaanites were determined to dwell in that land.

- Manasseh **did not drive out**...because the enemy was determined to stay
- Of course, the enemy is determined to stay. Does that mean we give up?

Romans 5:19b... But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more

28 And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites **under tribute**, but did not completely drive them out.

- **Manasseh did not drive out**...because the enemy was determined to stay. And?

We need to have an attitude of winning every victory

29 **Nor did Ephraim** drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; so the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them. 30 **Nor did Zebulun** drive out the inhabitants of Kitron or the inhabitants of Nahalol; so the Canaanites dwelt among them, and were put under tribute. 31 **Nor did Asher** drive out the inhabitants of Acco or the inhabitants of Sidon, or of Ahlab, Achzib, Helbah, Aphik, or Rehob. 32 So the Asherites **dwelt among the Canaanites**, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out. 33 **Nor did Naphtali** drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh or the inhabitants of Beth Anath; but they **dwelt among the Canaanites**, the inhabitants of the land. Nevertheless the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath were put under tribute to them.

- **Put under tribute**

1. Taking enemy alive
2. Using them to enrich their lives/crutch

- Did not utterly destroy as commanded and enabled by God to d

Trying to control sin rather than putting it to death. Reckoning it dead already.
Difference between Regeneration and Rehabilitation is Life and Death

34 And the **Amorites forced the children of Dan** into the mountains, for they would not allow them to come down to the valley; 35 and the Amorites were **determined to dwell** in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim; yet when the strength of the house of Joseph became greater, they were put **under tribute**. 36 Now the boundary of the Amorites was from the Ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela, and upward.

- **6 Tribes fail to drive out enemies in the north**

1. Manasseh did not drive out because enemy determined to stay
2. Ephraim Canaanites dwell among them
3. Zebulun Canaanites dwell among them

- **Switch:** Whose controlling who now?

4. Asher Asherites **dwelt among** the Canaanites?
5. Naphtali Naphtalites **dwelt among** the Canaanites?
6. Dan Forced to retreat? Not a good look for a believer

- Inheritance supposed to be central/western Israel on coast [Gaza]
- Chased by Canaanites north to mountains Not allowing back to valley.
- W/ Rephaim [giants/witchcraft] 180 miles from God-given inheritance

God said to utterly destroy the enemy

- **They *did not*** [read "*could not*"] because the enemy determined to dwell in the land?

Did not do what God commanded. So what? Did the best they could? **So, this...**

From this time on they turned to the dead gods of the Canaanites/abandoned Living God
Tried to control our sin rather than put it to death

- **Can't fix sin...**with philosophy, psychiatry, wisdom of the world

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ... **2:23** These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of **no value against the indulgence of the flesh.**

- **Sin must be utterly destroyed;** reckoned dead on the cross
- Trying harder/Putting it under Tribute, seem to work for time/come back to bite

Sin is Untamable and Must be put to death

James 1:14 [grows in us beginning with temptation] ...each one is tempted when he is **drawn away** by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it **gives birth to sin**; and sin, when it is full-grown, **brings forth death**. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

Isaiah 9:18 [Continues to burn like Wildfire] For wickedness [sin] **burns as the fire**; It shall devour the briars and thorns, And kindle in the thickets of the forest; They shall mount up like rising smoke.

- God's people are called to be separate from sin /darkness

2 Corinthians 6:14 ... what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion **has light with darkness**? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

- If Jesus set us free from sin why are keeping it so close?

Ephesians 5:8... you **were once darkness**, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light**

- Can't fix sin...
- **Better not play with it...**

Proverbs 6:27 Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes **not be burned**? 28 Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared?

- Jesus gives us the power over all sin. Resurrection power available to all with His Spirit

Romans 6:10 ¹⁰ For *the death* that [Jesus] died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, **reckon [count] yourselves to be dead indeed to sin**, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³ And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For **sin shall not have dominion over you**, for you are not under law but **under grace**.

- Power over sin is His grace [death on cross] and manifested by His Spirit

Romans 8:11 But if the **Spirit of Him** who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also **give life to your mortal bodies** through His Spirit who dwells in you.

1 John 3:5b... [Jesus] was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. 6 Whoever abides in Him **does not sin**. [Walk in sin/lifestyle of sin]

They had the power through faith in God to utterly defeat their enemy
Our enemy sin is dead on the cross. We just need to reckon [count it] as it is. Dead.

- **Consequences for Israel's compromise with enemy?**
 1. Massive Casualties
 2. No Peace
 3. Idolatry leading to Enslavement [all seemed to be working so well?]
- **Consequences for our compromise with our enemy [sin]?**
 1. **Massive Casualties:** Family/Friends/Kids
 2. **No Peace:** Regrets.... Oh, what I would do to be able to do it again
 3. **Idolatry** [following dictates of our own sinful hearts] leading to **Slavery:** Addictions/Demonic toying/Slaves to pain/ Life of blame/failure
- **Deceit of Sin:** James 1:16
 1. **Don't play with it:** Compromise, keep it around. Toy with it.
 2. **Can't fix it:** Psychology, 12 Steps. Not rehabilitation but regeneration

We can never live the resurrected life...until we consider our sin dead on the cross

- Did not utterly destroy/Tried control them/keeping them near/dwelling among them
- Rest of Book of Judges reveals disastrous consequences Israel's disobedience in Ch 1
- Second Generation not understanding the seriousness of sin