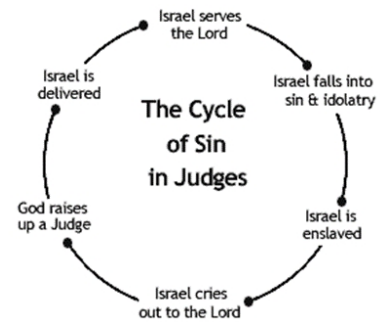


Judges 2

Jesus

- **6 Tribes fail to utterly destroy enemy as commanded**
- **Instead enjoying Spirit filled life...**
 1. Listening for the Lord
 2. Listening to the Lord
 3. Obeying the Lord out of Love
 4. Fearing the Lord in Reverence leading to victory/joy
- **Settle for...**Compromise/Defeat/Judgement for disobedience



I. The Angel of The Lord

1 Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: **"I led you up from Egypt** and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers..."

Best Commentary on Scripture? **Scripture Interpreting Scripture**

- **Continuity of Scripture:** Word of God is Living from Genesis to Revelation

Mark 4:3 "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the **birds of the air came and devoured it...10** But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable....**13** And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? **How then will you understand all the parables?** 14 The sower sows the word. 15 And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, **Satan comes immediately** and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts."

- **Interpretation:** Birds of the air represent evil working to thwart what God is doing
- **Now we can understand...**

Matthew 13:31 Another parable [Jesus] put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, 32 which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the **birds of the air come and nest in its branches.**" [Mustard trees do not get large]

- **Not Kingdom Now Theology:** Church would take over world before Jesus comes
- "Church" grows abnormally/both true and false-believers; i.e. tares looking like wheat

Revelation 18:2 [Angel cries out] "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and **hated bird!**"

- Scripture is best commentary on Scripture: Living Word

2 Peter 1:20 ... that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation

There must be sober confirmation of any prophetic word, and that not through another prophetic word but through the Scriptures. [Guzik]

Law of First Mention

Genesis 16:7 [Read] Now **the Angel of the Lord** found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸And **He** said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai." ⁹**The Angel of the Lord** said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand." ¹⁰Then **the Angel of the Lord** said to her, "**I will multiply** your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude." ¹¹And **the Angel of the Lord** said to her: Behold, you *are* with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the Lord has heard your affliction.¹² He shall be a wild man; His hand *shall be* against everyman, And everyman's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren." ¹³Then **she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees**; for she said, "Have I also here **seen Him** who sees me?"

- **Angel:** heb. Lit. ambassador, angel, messenger. Not necessarily created being
- **The Angel of the Lord/The Angel of God/My Angel**

Law of First Mentions reveals the Angel of the Lord as God

1. Pre-incarnate Jesus Christ
2. **Christophany**

The Angel is the is the second Person to the Trinity Jesus Christ. Son of God Greater than all other angels because He is the Creator of all other angels

- **Son of God the Creator of all worlds...**

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by **His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

- **Son of God worshiped by angels...**

⁵ For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? ⁶ But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."

- **Son of God called God by God the Father**

⁷ And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire." ⁸ But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

- **Son of God called the Creator by God the Father**

¹⁰ And: "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; ¹² Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But

You are the same, And Your years will not fail." 13 But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Hebrews 10:6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'

Luke 24:25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to **them in all the Scriptures** the things concerning Himself.

Scripture interprets Scripture/ Law of First Mention

The Angel of the Lord/God is the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ

- **The Angel of the Lord sent to Patriarchs:** Abraham, Issacs and Jacob

Genesis 18:1 Then **the Lord appeared to** [Abraham] by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. 2 So [Abraham] lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, 3 and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant...16 Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. 17 And the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, 18 since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?... **22** Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still **stood before the Lord.**

- **Two men leave for Sodom/Abraham left with the third; i.e. The Lord v22**

Genesis 22:1 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. 5 And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." 6 So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. 7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 And Abraham said, "My son, **God will provide for Himself** the lamb for a burnt offering." [KJV God will *provide himself* a lamb] So the two of them went together. 9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But **the Angel of the Lord** called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." 12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you **fear God**, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, **from Me.**" 13 Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount

of the Lord it shall be provided.”

- The Angel of the Lord provides a Sacrifice of which one day He would be Abraham to his servant sent to get his son Isaac a bride...

Genesis 24:7 [God] ... will send **His angel** before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

- The angel later with Isaac's son Jacob...

Genesis 31:11 Then the **Angel of God** spoke to [Jacob] in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.'

- Elder Jacob blesses his sons calling **the Angel of the Lord his Redeemer**

Genesis 48:15 [Jacob] blessed Joseph, and said: "**God**, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, **The God who has fed me** all my life long to this day, **16 The Angel** who has **redeemed me** from all evil, Bless the lads...

- God/The Angel who has fed me / led me and redeemed me
- Later Moses heard the Angel of the Lord from the burning bush...

Exodus 3:1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²And **the Angel of the Lord** appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." ⁴So **when the Lord saw** that he turned aside to look, **God called to him from the midst of the bush** and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand *is* holy ground." ⁶Moreover He said, "I *am* the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God...¹³ Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* His name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴And God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'

- Jesus used this title for Himself again in NT

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM.**"

Isaiah 43:11 [God the Father] I, even I, am the Lord, And besides **Me there is no savior.**¹² I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, And *there was* no foreign *god* among you; Therefore you *are* My witnesses," Says the Lord, "that I *am* God.¹³ Indeed before the day *was*, **I am He**; And *there is* no one who can **deliver out of My hand**

- Jesus/Father both called the "I AM" / Savior / One who holds us in His hand...

John 10:28 [Jesus speaking...] I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one."

- The Angel of the Lord was in the Pillar of Cloud and Fires as Moses led the people

Exodus 14:19 And **the Angel of God**, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and

went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. 20 So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.

- The Angel fought the battles going into the Promised Land

Exodus 33:2 And I will send **My Angel** before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.

- Moses dies and Angel of the Lord goes ahead of Joshua into Promised Land...

Joshua 5:13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a **Man** stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?"¹⁴ So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." And Joshua **fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him**, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" ¹⁵ Then the Commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "**Take your sandal off your foot**, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

- **Numbers 22: The Angel:** Stopped Balaam's donkey in
- **Judges** 4x...ch 2, 5, 6, 13

After being in Promised Land: The Angel continues with God's people...

2 Kings 19:35 [The Angel fights for God's people] And it came to pass on a certain night that **the angel of the Lord** went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. [c.f. Isaiah 37]

- David counts God's army...God offers choice of punishment for pride
 1. **Three years** Famine
 2. **Three months** Running from enemies
 3. **Three days** Plague of God
- **David chooses God's Plague:** Fall into the hands of a merciful God rather than man

1 Chronicles 21:16 [The Angel destroys/builds] Then David lifted his eyes and saw **the angel of the Lord** standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces. ¹⁷ And David **said to God**, "Was it not I who commanded the people to be numbered? I am the one who has sinned and done evil indeed; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, **O Lord my God**, be against me and my father's house, but not against Your people that they should be plagued." ¹⁸ Therefore, **the angel of the Lord** commanded Gad to say to David that David should go and erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite...³⁰ ...David could not go before it to inquire of God, for he was afraid of the **sword of the angel of the Lord**.

- David feared the Angel of the Lord

Psalm 34:7 **The angel of the Lord** encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.

- David asked The Angel of the Lord to judge his enemies...

Psalm 35:5 Let them be like chaff before the wind, And let the angel of the Lord chase them. 36 Let their way be dark and slippery, And let **the angel of the Lord** pursue them.

- **1 Kings 19** The Angel tells Elijah to arise/eat as he wallowed in self
- **2 Kings 1** The Angel commands Elijah to speak to the King
- **Daniel 3** The Angel of the Lord protects 3 Hebrew in the furnace...

Daniel 3:25 [Nebuchadnezzar] "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."...**28** Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent **His Angel** and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!

- **Who protected Daniel in the Lion's den?**

Daniel 6:22 My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."

- **Other possible instances...**

Exodus 11:4 [Passover death Angel] "Thus says the Lord: 'About midnight **I will go** out into the midst of Egypt; 5 and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne

Exodus 12:12 'For **I will pass through** the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt gen **13 ... And when I see the blood, I will pass over you**

- Also, the Man who wrestled with Jacob

Genesis 32:30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

**The Angel of the Lord/God is the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ
Not the Father and not the Spirit...**

John 1:18 **No one has seen God** at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the **invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Hebrews 11:27 By faith [Moses] forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as **seeing Him who is invisible**.

1 Timothy 6:15 [God described as] He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power.

Exodus 33:20 [God] "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, **and live**."

1 John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time.

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His **invisible attributes** are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse

- **The Angel of the Lord**/The Angel of God/His Angel: Jesus Christ pre-Bethlehem

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem...Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, **From everlasting.**"

SUMMARY The Angel of the Lord in Judges 4 X

II. Consequences of Disobedience Thorns

Command: Utterly Destroy the Enemy

Israel allowing the enemy to remain is equivalent to us allowing sin to remain

1. Allowed Canaanites to dwell with them
 2. They dwelt among Canaanites
 3. Israelites forced to retreat from Canaanites. **So, we...**
-
1. Allow sin to dwell with us
 2. We are drawn near to sin
 3. Sin call the shots in our lives and we become slaves...

John 8:34 [Jesus. Be sure of this...] "...whoever commits sin is a **slave of sin.**

Romans 6:16 ... to whom you present yourselves **slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey**, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

What do you want to be your Master: Sin or Righteousness?

- **Sin [Flesh] as our Master**

1. Uncleaness
2. Selfishness
3. Addictions
4. Sexual sin
5. Jealousy
6. Unbelief
7. Hatred
8. Gossip
9. Porn

- **Righteousness [Jesus] as our Master**

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience

5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Self-control
8. Gentleness
9. Faithfulness

Why do so many choose sin as their Master?
Persistent Question for this chapter: So why not just repent?

John 3:19b... and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

1 Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: **"I led you up from Egypt** and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers...; and I said, **'I will never break My covenant with you.** 2 And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed My voice. **Why have you done this?**

- **Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal:** Homebase after crossing Jordan

Why have you done this?

Genesis 3:8 [Adam/Eve sin and hide] And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, **"Where are you?"** [God curses and thorns appear]

You had it so good...Why have you done this?

3 Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be **thorns in your side**, and their gods shall be a snare to you.' "

I keep ALL My promises: Both to Bless and to Curse
God is much more interested in our growth than our comfort

Numbers 33:55 ...if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be **irritants in your eyes** and **thorns in your sides**, and they **shall harass you** in the land where you dwell.

Why have you done this...now I have to get your attention

2 Corinthians 12:7 lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a **thorn in the flesh** was given to me, a **messenger of Satan** to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

- God used demons to cause Paul pain and keep him humble...

God will use the enemy to cause us pain for His purposes
He will allow the enemy to have his way with us...to turn us back to Him!

1 Corinthians 5:5 [Sexual sin in the Church] ... deliver such a one to Satan for the

destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

I will give you up to your own ways...Pain is on the way

4 So it was, when **the Angel of the Lord** spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people **lifted up their voices and wept.**

2 Corinthians 7:10 ...godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, **not to be regretted;** but the sorrow of the world **produces death.**

- **Worldly Sorrow** I was caught now God fix this
- **Godly Sorrow** I have sinned please have mercy on me

If the man does not live differently from what he did before, both at home and abroad, his repentance needs to be repented of, and his conversion is a fiction... **A drop of genuine repentance** is more precious than a torrent of weeping. [Spurgeon]

5 Then they called the name of that place **Bochim**; and they sacrificed there to the Lord. 6 And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land.

- **Bochim:** Lit. Weeping
- **Crying and Sacrificing:** All is good right?

SUMMARY The Angel of the Lord: Thorns represent the curse of sin leading to pain

Jesus took the Curse of Sin upon Himself

Matthew 27:29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

1 Peter 2:24 [Jesus]... bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness

**After all that I have done for you...Why have You done this?
Why not just repent?**

III. Tragedy of Following Our Heart

7-10 [Review] So the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord which He had done for Israel. 8 Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died when he was one hundred and ten years old. 9 And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. 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.**

Why did the Second Generation not know the Lord?

Deuteronomy 4:9 ... take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. **And teach them to your children and your grandchildren...**

Ephesians 6:4 ... fathers... bring [your children] up in the training/admonition of the Lord.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go...when he is old, he will not depart from it.

- First generation failed. Second Generation still responsible...

The new generation had no personal relationship with God, and no personal awareness of His power. God was someone who their parents related to and who did great things for their parent's generation. [Guzik]

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. 13 They **forsook the Lord** and **served Baal** and the Ashtoreths. 14 And the anger of the Lord was **hot against Israel**.

- New generation waiting for parents to die
 1. **Forsook Him** Disregarded His Goodness, Mercy, Lovingkindness
 2. **Took Him for granted** The One who delivered them
 3. **Ignored His instruction** Followed the gods of their enemies
 4. **Unfaithful to Him** Bowed to Idols. Back to bondage

Interesting that each generation thinks they are the first rebels...pushing boundaries on sexual sin, scant clothing, and alternate religious views, they seek to be different than the previous generation not realizing they are exactly the same...even reaping the same consequences of rebellion and disobedience; i.e. pain, depression, despair, hopelessness etc. [NJC]

When we forsake the Lord...We immediately serve something else. Shiny/New/Deadly

- **Baal/Ashtoreth:** Glory to demons for crops, rainfall, prosperity. Convenient worship

**Did evil in the sight of their loving God as He watched
Provoked Him with Presumptuous sin...What are You going to do about it?**

14b...So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies.

What was good was now stolen. What was fresh was now spoiled

- Why did God do this to me/Why is nothing working for me/why am I defeated?

15 Wherever they went out, the hand of the Lord was against them for calamity, **as the Lord had said**, and **as the Lord had sworn to them**. And they were greatly distressed.

Why does nothing seem to be working for me?

Are you following God or your own heart? Your agenda or God's?

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

- God will allow us to follow our hearts...**but don't expect it to go well**

Deuteronomy 29:19b... [Don't say...] 'I shall have peace, even though I **follow the dictates of my heart**'—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.

**Better for God to make us miserable than to abandon us
We do not pray for the comfort of the unrepentant sinner.**

- **God is good.** All He does and all He allows is for the believers good

Israel was greatly distressed due to their own sin...

16 **Nevertheless, the Lord** raised up judges [deliverers] who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.

- God is Merciful and Longsuffering even when we are not...

Romans 5:8 ...God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- God is faithful even when we are not...

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

17 Yet they **would not listen to their judges**, but they played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them. They **turned quickly** from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the Lord; **they did not do so**.

**Newsflash: The Natural Man loves his sin...
So much so that he disregards/suppresses the consequences**

John 3:19 ...this is the condemnation, that the **light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

- **Insanity/Sin Nature**

- I. Doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result
- II. Continuing to do those things that are destroying you

18 And **when the Lord raised up judges for them**, the Lord was **with**

the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for **the Lord was moved to pity** by their **groaning** because of those who oppressed them and harassed them.

- **God is Love:** Moves with pity at the genuine cries/groaning of His people...He caused
- **God is good**...us? Not so much...

19 And it came to pass, when the **judge was dead**, that they **reverted and behaved more corruptly** than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them.

As soon as the toddlers are not being watched they run. Runners.

- **Parents die/Judge dies:** Snap back to evil like rubber band
- **Q. Did they truly love God?**

Ephesians 6:5 [Do what you do...] with **fear and trembling**, in **sincerity of heart**, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, **doing the will of God from the heart**, 7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men...

Colossians 3:22 [Do what you do...] not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it **heartily**, as to the Lord and not to men...

If we going through the motions of "serving God" to please parents/mentors/bosses/pastor
We will eventually fail

19b... They did not cease from **their own doings** nor from their **stubborn way**.

Sin and its consequence are our own doing...due to our own stubbornness

20 Then the anger of the Lord was **hot against Israel**; and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not **heeded My voice**...

- **OT:** Anger burned against His people. Sacrifice for our sin not yet made
- **NT:** God's burning anger/wrath was poured out on Jesus on the cross on our behalf

Sin in a Spirit filled believer causes their Father pain/grief

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

- Anger for not heeding God's voice, so...

21 I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, 22 so that **through them I may test Israel**,

whether they will keep the ways of the Lord, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not.”²³ Therefore the Lord left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.

In His manifest wisdom God will use all things for good

He left His people with some major problems to deal with that they couldn't fix

Why not just repent. Stop fighting it and be refreshed

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,

- Want Victory? Obey God
- Want Freedom? Obey God
- Want Blessing? Obey God

Next week: Learning War