



### Judges 2-5

1. The consequence of claiming life is too difficult God's way is that God makes things more difficult in an effort to wake us up (2:1-5 w/11-15, 20-23; Pro 11:31, 13:15, 15:10; What it means if life gets easier = Heb 12:5-8).
2. The prior generations' faithfulness to God does not guarantee the faithfulness of the next generation (2:6-10 - "know" = Trust; e.g. Jug 2:22; Psa 140:12).
3. Each new generation must make its own choice to follow and be faithful to God (2:6-10).
4. Children becoming idolators and going apostate is the cost of allowing bad influences/theology to remain around your family (2:2:13 w/10-13).
5. As long as a divinely appointed priest and covenant exists, so also there exists a divinely appointed community offering salvation – or deliverance, irrespective of how many sinful or rebellious members there may be in her midst (2:1, 16-18 w/20:27-28).
6. In one generation the covenant community can go from being a place w/strong spiritual leaders and people committed to obediently serving the Lord, to a place w/weak spiritual leaders, idolators, apostates and anarchists (2:6-19; 17:6 & 21:25).
7. Like kings, military leaders are not leaders in the church and therefore possess power to defeat physical enemies but not spiritual enemies (2:16 -17; "judges" = Military leaders [e.g. 3:7-11]; "they did not listen to their judges" = These military leaders had no power to curb the spiritual enemy of sin; This is true even of Jesus and why His role of priest and prophet is so important to His reign as king; Consider Deu 18:18-20 w/Act 3:22-23 and Heb 4:14-16 w/Heb 10:12-13).
8. Obeying God's commands includes going to war w/His enemies – not shacking up w/them (3:1-6; 2Co 6:14-7:1; Eph 5:5-11).
9. Those God considers His and our enemies include any person whose proximity to us could influence us to serve a false god (2:3, 3:6; Hence 2Jo 1:9-11).
10. Being unconventional in your ways is not a disqualifier to God using you to accomplish great things for His kingdom and people (e.g. Ehud - 3:12-30, 15; Shamgar - 3:31).
11. Though never functioning as spiritual or military leaders, women: 1) have been used by God to give important spiritual counsel to others in the covenant community (4:1-16, 22-24, 5:6-7 = Deborah w/Barak; vv4-5 "judge...judging" = Deb was a prophetess rec'g God's judgment for the people but neither a spiritual leader or a military leader [or judge]. Barak was the designated judge/military leader), 2) can make important contributions in the battle against God and His people's enemies (4:9, 17-21, 5:24-27 = Jael against Sisera).
12. Women have been known to know what it means to act like men, more than the men around them (4:6-9, 17-22; 1Co 16:13 = Be courageous).
13. Willingness and participation in the covenant community's battles is not only expected of her leaders (the "commanders of Israel" -5:9), but every member: 1) no matter how small or insignificant (5:1-2, 8-15a, 18; 5:11 -"villagers in Israel" = Common people), 2) who wb cursed by God if they shrink like cowards (5:15b-17, 23; Consider 2Ti 4:16 = Pastors often need the help of their people to win the spiritual battles raging in the church. People however tend tb cowards to not only the detriment of those they should have helped, but their own detriment as well).
14. What God does in helping His people often requires His people's help (5:1-5 w/23b – "to the help of the Lord...to the help of the Lord against the mighty"; *God helps those who help themselves Him*).
15. Looking to past and present providence can be the key to future progress and blessings from God (5:24-26; "tent-dwelling...milk...curds in a noble's bowl" = All related to her past and present and what gave Jael the ability and skill to kill God's enemy and receive His blessing. She knew how to drive a "tent peg" and what warm milk and curds would do in making one sleepy [Hence the reason she gives that instead of "water"]).
16. The fact that God's enemies have mothers who love them must never cause us to pity them – or desire something less than death for them, if we desire to continue as God's "friends" (5:28-31; \*Remember there is a difference between God's enemies and those now welcomed to God).