

Judges 1-2 – 2 September 2021

“Breaking The Cycle Of Sin”

Introduction

*Judges covers period from Joshua’s conquest of the land in 1380BC until the monarchy begins in 1050BC with the 1st king Saul

*Although the author unknown, it seems likely that it was Samuel & it was written during the time of King Saul’s reign from 1050-1000BC

*God has given Israel great prosperity: cities they didn’t build farms they didn’t produce

*But instead of recognizing the grace of God that brought them to this place of prosperity, we’ll see that the theme of the Book of Judges is that “*everyone did that which was right in their own eyes*”.

*As the book opens up, it shows us the cycle of sin that Israel falls into repeatedly

***Let’s look at 5 tips for “Breaking The Cycle Of Sin”**

1st Tip for breaking the cycle of sin: Depend on God not man (Chap 1:1-7)

Read Chap 1:1-2

1. The 12 tribes are a loose confederacy
 - a. Independent yet giving aid & fellowship to each other when needed
2. Judah is chosen to be the military leaders
3. God intends to deliver the remaining Canaanite cities into Israel's hand thru Judah
 - a. But it's God they should depend on not man
 - b. God has always been the source of victory for them, not Moses or Joshua

Read Chap 1:3

1. Immediately Judah turns from God to rely on Simeon, the arm of flesh
 - a. They are already denying God's ability and depending on man's ability
 - b. God had just promised to deliver the land into Judah's hand, but they're doubting this

Read Chap 1:4-7

1. Adoni-bezek had done this to 70 others (small) kings & now he believes it's coming back on him
2. There were still many small strongholds of Canaanites throughout the land that needed wiped out like Bezek
3. Always more work to be done, but it takes a walk of faith depending on God to complete it

2nd Tip for breaking the cycle of sin: Completely obey what you know (Chap 1:8-36)

1. One of our greatest failings as humans is when we think that partial obedience is good enough
 - a. Partial obedience means we're choosing to allow sin.... some of the time
2. It begins well w/ Judah until we get to vs 19

Read Chap 1:8

1. Judah/Simeon conquered Jerusalem but couldn't hold it (see vs 21)

Read Chap 1:9-15

1. We received these accounts in Jos 15 as well
 - a. Joshua was looking for a Godly son-in-law
 - b. Othniel will become 1st Judge of Israel
2. So, Judah conquers Hebron and Debir

Read Chap 1:16

1. “City of Palm Trees” is Jericho
2. Kenites weren’t Canaanites so they could stay

Read Chap 1:17-20

1. Judah/Simeon continues to conquer...just not completely...they left the valley in vs 19
2. “Strange, were the iron chariots too strong for Omnipotence?” (Adam Clarke)
3. One reason we don’t completely obey (as in verse 19) is *fear*

Read Chap 1:21-26

1. From Judah, Benjamin, now Ephraim going north
2. Again, their partial obedience seen in vs 21 & 25

3. Another reason we don't completely obey (as in verse 25) is *misplaced compassion*
 - a. Dealing w/ sin is no time to have softness
 - b. Read Rom 6:11-12– “reckon yourself dead”

Read Chap 1:27-28

1. Going northward again, Manasseh didn't fully deal with the Canaanites but simply taxed them
2. Another reason we don't completely obey (as in verse 28) is that *we think we can gain from it*
 - a. Sin will always spoil you, not supply you
 - b. Read Col 2:8 – “don't be spoiled...”

Read Chap 1:29-33

1. Only Issachar not mentioned, rest didn't complete their mission

Read Chap 1:34-36

1. Dan wouldn't deal with the Amorites
2. Another reason we don't completely obey (as in verse 35) is *we just don't want to deal w/ conflict*

3rd Tip for breaking the cycle of sin: When needed, bring true repentance (Chap 2:1-5)

Read Chap 2:1-2

1. The angel of the Lord is the pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ
 - a. Also appeared to Joshua before Jericho
 - b. Jesus expressed His power before Joshua & now here He expresses His compassion & heart
 - i. Don't get out of balance regarding Jesus
2. See the heartbreak – “Why have you done this?”
 - a. Paul says in Rom 2:4 that “it’s the goodness of God that leads us to” change our ways.

Read Chap 2:3-5

1. They weep but is it the weeping to repentance or the sorrow of death (Read II Cor 7:9-10)
2. They sacrificed to God but did they also forsake their own ways? (Cleaving AND Leaving)
 - a. Loving your wife isn't real unless you also leave your mistress

4th Tip for breaking the cycle of sin: Teach kids to experience God for themselves (Chap 2:6-15)

Read Chap 2:6-10

1. There are 3 generations we're told about here
 - a. Joshua who served & did the works of God
 - b. The elders that saw the works of God
 - c. The next generation that didn't know that Lord or even of His works
2. Each generation has to have their own experiential walk of faith with the Lord
 - a. Each person needs to look to God in prayer
 - b. Each needs to know God thru His Word
 - c. Each needs to work out their own salvation

Read Chap 2:11-13

1. Baal – god of weather & agriculture
2. Ashtaroth – goddess of love & sex
3. idolatry is adultery

Read Chap 2:14-15

1. Despising goodness of God brings His anger
2. Spoiled = to be robbed of your blessings
3. Next gen needs taught all the good God has done
 - a. In creation, in redemption & in practice

5th Tip for breaking the cycle of sin: Recognize & appreciate God's grace (Chap 2:16-3:6)

Read Chap 2:16-17

1. Each time God provided a judge for deliverance, it was yet another micro-chance for them to repent and turn to God
2. This was God's grace to throw off the oppression that they caused to come upon themselves

Read Chap 2:18-19

1. God isn't a magic genie to be used & abused
2. Forsook the Lord when the judge was dead
 - a. Good times are hardest times to live pure
3. Tytler Lifecycle of nations

Read Chap 2:20-23

1. So instead of living in prosperity, they'll live in struggle
 - a. We're so quick to blame God for the junk that's in our lives, but we're often the ones responsible for allowing it to be there
2. The sin that is around us CAN be used to show the Lord our love and faithfulness
 - a. When we live pure in a dirty world, it's pleasing to God

Read Chap 3:1-6

1. These remaining Canaanites were a good chance to show the Lord their devotion, but they failed to do that
2. Just having trials in our lives is a reminder that God is giving another chance for us to overcome
3. Yet, Israel fully embraced living with the Canaanites and their sins

Conclusion

So Israel as a nation will fall into this cycle sin & God's deliverance, sin & God's deliverance. Do let that become your life...break the cycle.

1. Depend on God, not man

- a. Whether every leader around you is godly or heathen, we can look to God for wisdom

2. Completely obey what you know

- a. Partial obedience says that you're choosing to allow sin in your life, ouch!

3. When needed, bring true repentance

- a. Not just lip service, but a true move of your whole life in God's direction

4. Teach kids to experience God themselves

- a. God doesn't have any grandkids, only chosen adopted sons and daughters

5. Recognize & appreciate God's grace

- a. The Lord is patience, always looking to give another opportunity to come to Him