



# SNARES

Snared Under The Table!

The Book of Judges 1:4-7

The Book of Judges 1:1-7, *“After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel inquired of the Lord, “Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?”<sup>2</sup> The Lord said, “Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand.”<sup>3</sup> And Judah said to Simeon his brother, “Come up with me into the territory allotted to me, that we may fight against the Canaanites. And I likewise will go with you into the territory allotted to you.” So Simeon went with him. Then Judah went up and the Lord gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand, and they defeated 10,000 of them at Bezek.<sup>5</sup> They found Adoni-Bezek at*

*Bezek and fought against him and defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites. 6 Adoni-Bezek fled, but they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and his big toes. 7 And Adoni-bezek said, "Seventy kings with their thumbs and their big toes cut off used to pick up scraps under my table. As I have done, so God has repaid me." And they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there.*

May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word this evening, In Jesus Name! Amen!

In Judges chapter 1, we are introduced to an obscure character named Adonai Bezek who was a king who had conquered 70 other kingdoms and took the kings from those conquered kingdoms as slaves.

He cut off their thumbs and big toes and put them under his banquet table in so that every time Adonai Bezek feasted, it was a perpetual reminder of their demise as they were forced to eat the scraps that came from the king's table.

In the text found in Judges 1, it records the story of Judah going up against this pagan King named Adoni-Bezek. If one were to do a simple word study of this king's name, you would find that it is a compound name composed of two words: Adoni and Bezek.

Adoni-Bezek directly translates to mean “Lord of Lightning” Now pointing back to Judges chapter 1, there are a few things that I would like to bring to your attention that are found within this story...

### **1. 70 Kings have been Dethroned!**

- a. They lost their authority. They lost their ability to declare edicts.
- b. If you strip the throne from a King then he loses his authority to command. His words will have no authority because it's his throne and not the person who establishes the authority of the King's word. That's why generation after generation of kings can rule and in their death their authority never dies because their authority is not in the person, it is in the throne on which they sit as the symbol of authority!
- c. Their throne gives their word authority; their words do not give their throne authority. The Throne is the establishment of power. It is the unwavering position of ultimate control.
- d. How can this apply to our lives as Christians?

### **2. 70 Kings have been Demoralized**

- a. Why is this significant? Because they lost their identity under that table.

- b. Imagine being a king who now has to beg and grabble to get just a morsel of leftovers from the table of the king who conquered you.
- c. Remember, your position of authority always determines your identity and if I can take your authority from you then I can strip you of your identity because we always define ourselves by authority and the definition thereof becomes our identity.
- d. How can this apply to our lives as Christians?

### 3. 70 Kings have been Disarmed

- a. They lost their ability to make war. Your thumbs establish your ability in laying hold of a sword or spear!
- b. If one does not have their thumbs then their captive can prohibit you from wielding a Sword, a Bow, or even a Spear. I can make you “combat ineffective”.
- c. How can this apply to our lives as Christians?

### 4. 70 Kings have been Destabilized

- a. They lost their ability to make progress because it's impossible to sprint without one's big toes. The big toe of the foot is the most important toe because it lends stability in running and sprinting.

b. If you do not have your **Big Toes** then you will be prohibited from running, simply put, you will have **No Stability** in making forward progress.

c. How can this apply to our lives as Christians?

5. So what was the **END GAME** of Adoni-Bezek? With no throne, with no thumbs, and with no toes, they couldn't fulfill their purpose...

a. I want you to notice that the **Kings** are slaves but Adoni-Bezek still calls them kings. Why? Because a conquering king always determines his success as a king by the number of kings that he has conquered and not by the number of slaves that he has violated. Adoni-Bezek took great glory in the kings that dwelled underneath his table.

b. The greatest atrocity of this story is that the kings were reminded of who they were called to be but prohibited to perform their function.

c. The Lord of Lightning stripped them of their throne; their provision; their identity; their ability to make war; their ability to make progress; their purpose; but he still called them kings because to be reminded of who you were supposed to be is far more tormenting than living under that table!