

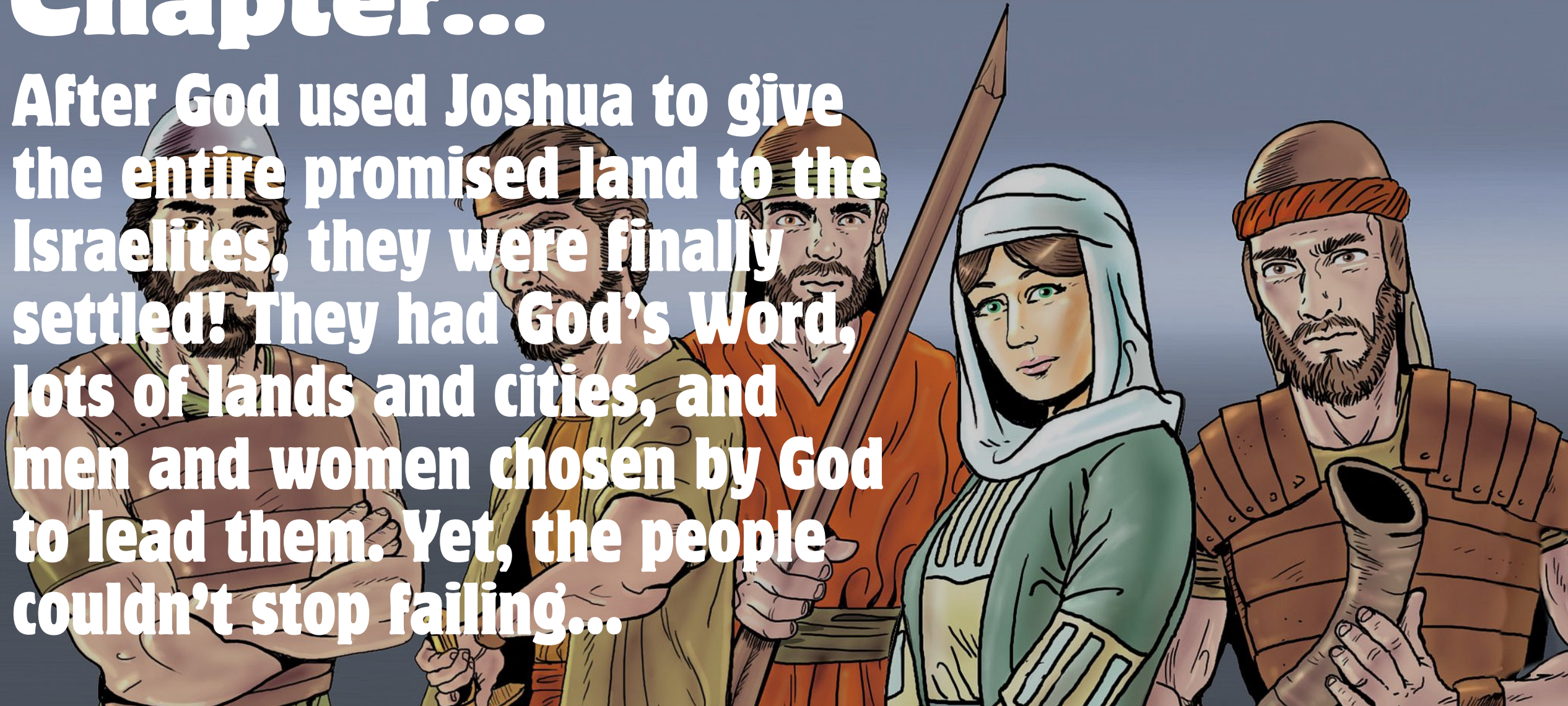


THE BIG STORY CHAPTER 11/25

The Judges:
Failure After Failure

Today's Chapter...

After God used Joshua to give the entire promised land to the Israelites, they were finally settled! They had God's Word, lots of lands and cities, and men and women chosen by God to lead them. Yet, the people couldn't stop failing...



Today's Scripture:

Judges 2:16-19, 21:25

Then the Lord chose leaders called judges. These leaders saved the people of Israel from the robbers. But the Israelites did not listen to their judges. They were not faithful to God. They followed other gods instead. In the past the people of Israel obeyed the Lord's commands. But now the Israelites stopped obeying the Lord. Many times the enemies of Israel hurt the Israelites. So the Israelites would cry for help. And each time the Lord felt sorry for them. Each time he sent a judge to save them from their enemies. The Lord was with those judges. But when each judge died, the Israelites again sinned and worshiped the false gods. They became worse than their ancestors. The Israelites were very stubborn; they refused to change their evil ways.

**In those days there was no king in Israel.
Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**



The Story: Judges

- The book of judges describe what's known as Israel's "Cycle of Sin".
- The Israelites would rebel and sin against God. They would do horrible and evil things. So, God would remove His protection from them, and they would get invaded by other nations that would cause them to suffer.
- They would then call out to God, and He would save them. They would follow God for a time, but would rebel against Him eventually, starting everything over again.
- This happened because Israel, time and time again, did what was "Right in their own eyes".

Why it Matters in the Big Story

- Sometimes, we listen to our own hearts and do what's "right in our own eyes" instead of what God teaches is right.**
- Whenever we do that, we'll always end up failing on our own and needing God's help to get back up.**
- However, our failures will continue until we learn to trust what God calls right, not trust what we think is right.**



GOD IS...

God is wise. To be wise means to have the knowledge and ability to do something really well. Gods so wise that He knows how we can live life really well, if only we listen to Him!

Reflection Questions

1. **Why were the Israelites always failing?**
They kept doing what was right in their own eyes!
2. **What does it mean to be wise?**
It means to have the knowledge and ability to do something really well!
3. **Who is wiser – us or God?**
God!

Challenge Question: How will you trust God's wisdom this week?