

Calvary Chapel Cajon

Women's Bible Studies

Judges 1 and 2

Lesson 1

Now it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being one hundred and ten years old. Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of the LORD which He had done for Israel (Joshua 24:29,31). At this point, the story of the Judges began. A new generation of God's people had inhabited the land. Judges is the account of nearly 400 years of a cycle of victory and failure as the Israelites obeyed and disobeyed God. *Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people* (Proverbs 14:34). The first two chapters describe the stages in Israel's decline and fall.

DAY ONE: Read Judges 1 and 2

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets (attached) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
2. A key phrase in Judges 1 is *drive out*. Complete the chart below by listing the tribe referred to in the verses and any information you think might be pertinent. The first two have been completed for you.

Verse	Tribe	Other Information
19	Judah/ Simeon (17)	Judah could not drive out the inhabitants of the lowland because they had chariots of iron
21	Benjamin	
27		
28	Israel	
29		
30		
31		
32		
33		
34		

- a. What did you discover from making the list about the results of failing to drive the enemy out of the land?

DAY TWO: Fighting the Enemy - Read Judges 1:1-26

1. Israel began well. *Now, after the death of Joshua*, the Israelites wisely sought God's guidance. What did they *ask the LORD*? see Judges 1:1

2. Using Judges 1:2-4, answer the following questions:

What was God's instruction?

What was God's promise?

What was Judah's response? (note: Simeon's inheritance was within the land allotted to Judah - Joshua 19:1)

What was the result?

3. Verses 4-18 describe the many victories celebrated by Judah and Simeon. We see a shift in verse 19. *They drove out the mountaineers, but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the lowlands*. What reason was given for this failure?

- a. Read God's promise in Deuteronomy 31:3-6. What does it say?

- 1.) Given the fact that God promised to give them the land, what might we deduce from this statement?

- 2.) Consider a time when you allowed something to be an excuse for not pressing forward in something that was God's will for you. What are some of the excuses we might entertain?

- b. What do the following scriptures teach us about God's faithfulness?

Psalm 89:33

Psalm 119:90

Hebrews 10:23

Challenge: List more verses that teach about God's faithfulness.

- c. What do the following verses teach about God's power?

Deuteronomy 32:39

Isaiah 43:13

Isaiah 48:13

Jeremiah 32:27

- 1.) Why is it important to believe that God is both *faithful* and *powerful*?

Challenge: What examples had the Israelites seen of God's faithfulness and power prior to entering the Promised Land?

DAY THREE: Sparing the Enemy - Read Judges 1:21, 27-36

1. God had given Israel specific instructions regarding what they were to do with their enemies. Read Deuteronomy 7:1-3 and record those instructions in your own words.

2. Rather than *cast out* the enemy and *utterly destroy* them, what did the tribes of Israel do?
 - a. This may seem like the compassionate thing to do. It may seem like the right thing to do. Why would allowing the enemy to remain in the land, even under *forced labor*, not be the right thing to do?

 - b. Personal: Consider some of the times in your life when you did what seemed right, but was not according to God's Word. What are some of your observations?

3. In Joshua 2, we have the account of the Israelite spies going to Jericho to check out the city, before Israel attacked it. A harlot named Rahab lived there. Read the account of Rehab in Joshua 2:8-13. Although she belonged to pagans, enemies of Israel, what did she know about God?
 - a. What did she ask the spies to do for her?

 - b. According to Joshua 6:25, what did Joshua do for Rahab, after Jericho was destroyed?

- 1.) Keeping in mind, Rahab's people were enemies of Israel, what does this teach us about God's heart towards those who believe Him?
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4. Look up the following verses and record God's predicted consequences of failing to drive the enemy entirely out of the land:
Exodus 23:33
Numbers 33:55
Deuteronomy 7:4
- a. Consider this as it applies to your own life. In what ways have you experienced these things when you have not completely given up a sin, or an ungodly influence in your life?

DAY FOUR: Imitating the Enemy – Read Judges 2:1-13

1. *Now the Angel of The LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said...(Judges 2:1a). The Angel of the LORD is believed to be Jesus. Summarize what He said. (verses 1-3)*
 - a. What was Israel's response? verses 4,5
 - 1.) How does God want us to react when we learn of a sin in our lives?
2. Verses 6-10 of Judges 2 are parenthetical verses – they do not fit into the chronological time frame in Judges, but rather seem to parallel Joshua 24:28-31. These verses help to give us an understanding of Israel as they were during the days of Joshua and the generation that followed. What does verse 7, of Judges 2, reveal about those who lived when Joshua lived?
 - a. What does verse 10 reveal about the next generation?
 - 1.) This generation knew the historical facts of what God had done for Israel, but they had not personally experienced them. Why do you think personal experience is so important?

- a.) In what ways does the Christian today personally experience the work of God?

- b.) If a Christian told you that she wanted to personally experience God's work in her life, what you tell her?

- 3. We do not know the time period between Israel's weeping in verse 5 and their *evil* deeds in verse 11. We can conclude that their weeping did not represent a repentance that lasted. What *evils* do verses 11-13 tell us they committed?
 - a. Why do you think that *forsaking the LORD* is often the first step to sin?
 - 1.) What are ways that Satan uses to draw Christians away from the Lord?
 - a.) What are some practical things we can do to prevent that from happening?

DAY FIVE: Obeying the Enemy - Read Judges 2:14-23

- 1. *And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel...* (Judges 2:14a). What did He do? verses 14,15

- 2. God's actions were not a result of His anger; they were a result of His faithfulness to His word. According to Deuteronomy 31:16-18, what did He say would happen if they did not drive the enemy out of the land?

- 3. Scan Judges 2:11-17 and list the sins committed by the Israelites.

- 4. Notice the mercy of the LORD as displayed in verses 16 and 18. What did God do in response to Israel's cries of distress?
 - a. What did Israel do when the *judge was dead*?

5. *I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died* (Judges 2:21). What reason did God give in verse 22 for His refusal to *drive out the nations*?
 - a. God knows the heart and intentions of everyone. He did not leave the enemies in the land to see what Israel would do. God *tests* us to refine us; God *tests* us to show us our own hearts. How would leaving the enemy in the land *test* the Israelites?
 - 1.) God often allows circumstances in our lives to *test us*. What does Psalm 66:10-12 reveal about God's *testing* of His people?

DAY SIX: Review Judges 1 and 2

1. On a separate sheet of paper, write the following words:

Areas in my life where I have not driven the enemy completely out

Now, ask the Lord to show you what He sees. This is between you and the Lord. It is not something you need to record in your homework. However, take this assignment seriously. It may change your life.

2. Until we study all of Judges, you may have the tendency to doubt God's ways. What questions have been provoked as you have studied the first two chapters of Judges?
3. To what extent, or in what way, should Christians separate themselves from the world?
4. What have you personally learned through God's *testings*?
5. In what ways have you been challenged by this lesson?

*But He knows the way that I take;
When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.
- Job 23:10*

Judges, Chapter One

¹Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, "Who shall be first to go up for us against the Canaanites to fight against them?" ²And the LORD said, "Judah shall go up. Indeed I have delivered the land into his hand." ³So Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me to my allotted territory, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I will likewise go with you to your allotted territory." And Simeon went with him. ⁴Then Judah went up, and the LORD delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand; and they killed ten thousand men at Bezek. ⁵And they found Adoni-Bezek in Bezek, and fought against him; and they defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites. ⁶Then Adoni-Bezek fled, and they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and big toes. ⁷And Adoni-Bezek said, "Seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off used to gather *scraps* under my table; as I have done, so God has repaid me." Then they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died. ⁸Now the children of Judah fought against Jerusalem and took it; they struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire. ⁹And afterward the children of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites who dwelt in the mountains, in the South, and in the lowland. ¹⁰Then Judah went against the Canaanites who dwelt in Hebron. (Now the name of Hebron *was* formerly Kirjath Arba.) And they killed Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai. ¹¹From there they went against the inhabitants of Debir. (The name of Debir *was* formerly Kirjath Sepher.) ¹²Then Caleb said, "Whoever attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give my daughter Achsah as wife." ¹³And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it; so he gave him his daughter Achsah as wife. ¹⁴Now it happened, when she came *to him*, that she urged him to ask her father for a field. And she dismounted from *her* donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you wish?" ¹⁵So she said to him, "Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water." And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs. ¹⁶Now the children of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up from the City of Palms with the children of Judah into the Wilderness of Judah, which *lies* in the South *near* Arad; and they went and dwelt among the people. ¹⁷And Judah went with his brother Simeon, and they attacked the Canaanites who inhabited Zephath, and utterly destroyed it. So the name of the city was called Hormah. ¹⁸Also Judah took Gaza with its territory, Ashkelon with its territory, and Ekron with its territory. ¹⁹So the LORD was with Judah. And they drove out the mountaineers, but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the lowland, because they had chariots of iron. ²⁰And they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses had said. Then he expelled from there the three sons of Anak. ²¹But the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem; so the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day. ²²And the house of Joseph also went up against Bethel, and the LORD *was* with them. ²³So the house of Joseph sent men to spy out Bethel. (The name of the city *was* formerly Luz.) ²⁴And when the spies saw a man coming out of the city, they said to him, "Please show us the entrance to the city, and we will show you mercy." ²⁵So he showed them the entrance to the city, and they struck the city with the edge of the sword; but they let the man and all his family go. ²⁶And the man went to the land of the Hittites, built a city,

and called its name Luz, which *is* its name to this day. ²⁷However, Manasseh did not drive out *the inhabitants of* Beth Shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages; for the Canaanites were determined to dwell in that land. ²⁸And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites under tribute, but did not completely drive them out. ²⁹Nor did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; so the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them. ³⁰Nor did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron or the inhabitants of Nahalol; so the Canaanites dwelt among them, and were put under tribute. ³¹Nor did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Acco or the inhabitants of Sidon, or of Ahlab, Achzib, Helbah, Aphik, or Rehob. ³²So the Asherites dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out. ³³Nor did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh or the inhabitants of Beth Anath; but they dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. Nevertheless the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath were put under tribute to them. ³⁴And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountains, for they would not allow them to come down to the valley; ³⁵and the Amorites were determined to dwell in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim; yet when the strength of the house of Joseph became greater, they were put under tribute. ³⁶Now the boundary of the Amorites *was* from the Ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela, and upward.

Judges, Chapter Two

¹Then 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. ²And 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? ³Therefore 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.' " ⁴So 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. ⁵Then they called the name of that place Bochim; and they sacrificed there to the LORD. ⁶And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land. ⁷So 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. ⁸Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died *when he was* one hundred and ten years old. ⁹And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. ¹⁰When 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. ¹¹Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; ¹²and 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. ¹³They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. ¹⁴And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. 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. ¹⁵Wherever 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. ¹⁶Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them. ¹⁷Yet 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. ¹⁸And 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. ¹⁹And 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. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way. ²⁰Then 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, ²¹I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, ²²so 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." ²³Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.