

Gleanings of Grace

Judges 2

Lesson 7

The book of Judges stands in stark contrast to the book of Joshua. In Joshua an obedient people conquered the land through trust in the power of God. In Judges, a disobedient and idolatrous people were defeated time and time again because of their rebellion against God. Nevertheless, the LORD, time and time again because of His great mercy, delivered them.

OBSERVATION: Read Judges 2

1. Read Judges 2 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *Angel of the LORD*, *LORD*, *Joshua*, the *children of Israel*, the *enemies of Israel*, and other *gods*.
Key Words: All of the above referenced words and related words or pronouns, *judge/judges*, and *against*
3. The contrasting words *but*, *yet*, and *nevertheless* are used five times in Judges 2. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.
4. The terms of conclusion *therefore* and *so* are used several times in Judges 2. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use. Record the conclusion and what it was based upon.

Background:

1. The Book of Judges begins with a series of victories and defeats that took place after the death of Joshua. The boundary lines for the twelve tribes had been determined years before (Joshua 13-22), but the people had not yet fully claimed their inheritance by defeating and dislodging the entrenched inhabitants of the land. Using Joshua 13:1, what did the LORD say to Joshua?

2. The people of Israel owned all of the land, but they didn't possess all of it; and therefore, they couldn't enjoy all of it. Beginning with Judges 1:19, we see the reasons why the children of Israel were not entirely possessing the land which the LORD had given them. What were the reasons given, according to:

Judges 1:19

Judges 1:21

Judges 1:22-26

Judges 1:27-33

- a. Numbers 33:50-56 contains God's instructions to Israel when they entered the Promised Land. What do verses 52 and 53 direct them to do?
 - b. According to verse 55, what consequences would follow if they did not *drive out the inhabitants of the land*?
3. Apply this to the life of the believer. What happens when we allow influences that are contrary to God's will into our lives?

Read Judges 2:1-6

1. *Then the Angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim...* (Judges 2:1). According to verse 1, what claims did the Angel of the LORD make about Himself?

- a. Consider the identity of the *Angel of the LORD* using:

Exodus 20:2

Genesis 17:7,8

Psalms 106:34

Challenge: Find another incident where the title *Angel of the LORD* was used and describe His attributes or actions.

2. Record the command of Judges 2:2.

- a. This land was declared by God, not to be owned by its inhabitants, but by the children of Israel. Why do you think it was crucial that they *tear down their altars*?

- 1.) What would be a parallel to *tearing down an altar* today?

3. Consider the consequences of their disobedience as recorded in verse 3. What were they?

- a. In what way are people or things that are contrary to God's desire for us a *thorn in our side* and a *snare*?

4. How did the *children of Israel* respond to the rebuke?

- a. The *children of Israel* seemed to be a people who initially responded well to God's challenges. Joshua challenged them at the end of his life. What did he say to them? Joshua 24:15

- 1.) What was the response of the people? Joshua 24:16,18

Read Judges 2:7-10

1. Judges 2:7 begins with the term of conclusion *so*. What did the *children of Israel* do *all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua*?

- a. According to the last phrase of verse 7, what had these *elders seen*?

- b. Record Paul's exhortation in Philippians 2:12.

- 1.) Why do you think Paul thought it was important to remind them of this?

2. Joshua was 110 years old when he died. Verse 10 speaks of *another generation*. What was declared about them?

- a. What are some things parents can do to help their children *know the LORD and the work He has done*?

- 1.) What are some specific things that are important to you that others in your sphere of influence *know* about God?

Challenge: Choose a story about one of the *judges* in the book of Judges and share what you gleaned.

Read Judges 2:11-15

1. *Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD...* Using verses 11-13, list what they did.

- a. What are some modern day equivalents of these *evils*?

2. What was God's response to their commission of these *evils*?

- a. God told Moses that Israel would *forsake Him and break His covenant which He made with them...* Deuteronomy 31:16. In the next verse, He declared what His response to them would be. What did God say?

3. Returning to Judges 2:15, what was their response to God's response?

- a. Using synonyms define the word *distressed*.

Read Judges 2:16-19

1. Thankfully, the story of the *children of Israel* does not end with Judges 2:15. What is the first word of verse 16?

- a. Express your response to the times you *forsook the LORD* and deserved punishment, but instead, He expressed to you a *nevertheless*.

2. Who did God *raise up*?

3. Joshua 2:14 reveals that God *delivered* the children of Israel *into the hands of the plunderers*. What does Joshua 2:16 reveal?

4. This section of Judges is fraught with words of contradiction. The children of Israel were *delivered to plunderers*. Nevertheless, the LORD *raised up judges* (deliverers). Verse 17 contains two words of contradiction. Complete the statements. The LORD *delivered* them:

yet

but

5. How fast did they *turn from the way in which their fathers walked*?
 - a. In what ways might this be a comfort to mothers ridden with guilt about the behavior of their prodigal?

6. Consider the words of verse 18. Why did the LORD *raise up judges*?
 - a. Bask in God's incredible heart for His people. What is your response when you meditate on the fact that, although you deserve His wrath, He is moved to *pity* for you?

7. What happened when a *judge died*?
 - a. Note and record the last sentence of Judges 2:19.
 - 1.) Describe the phrases:

own doings

their own stubborn way

 - a.) What does it say to you that these *evils* that were committed by God's people were a result of them *not ceasing from their own doings nor from their stubborn way*?

Read Judges 2:20-23

1. The *anger of the LORD* was again *hot against Israel*. He declared that He *would no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died*. According to verse 22, what was His intention?

2. Record the words regarding *testing* from the following verses:

Deuteronomy 8:16

Job 23:10

Psalm 66:10

Proverbs 17:3

a. Since God already knows our hearts, what do you think He is doing when He *tests* us?

REVIEW: Read Judges 2

1. Judges 2 records God's responses to the disobedience of His people and the oppression of His people; He delivers His people into the hands of plunderers and delivers them out of the hands of plunderers. Share your thoughts of what you have gleaned about God from this chapter.

*Many times He delivered them; but they rebelled in their counsel,
And were brought low for their iniquity.
Nevertheless He regarded their affliction,
When He heard their cry;
And for their sake He remembered His covenant,
And relented according to the multitude of His mercies.*

- Psalm 106:43-45

Observation Worksheet

Judges 2

Then 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. ² 'And 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? ³ "Therefore 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.' " ⁴ So 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. ⁵ Then they called the name of that place Bochim; and they sacrificed there to the LORD. ⁶ And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land. ⁷ So 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. ⁸ Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died when he was one hundred and ten years old. ⁹ And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. ¹⁰ When 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. ¹¹ Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; ¹² and 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. ¹³ They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. ¹⁴ And 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. ¹⁵ Wherever 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. ¹⁶ Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them. ¹⁷ Yet 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. ¹⁸ And 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. ¹⁹ And 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. ²⁰ Then 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, ²¹ I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, ²² so 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." ²³ Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.