

Episode #513 Judges 2 Part 1 – The Next Generation

I. In the book of Judges, we have a brief record of the early history (the first centuries) of the history of the land of Israel. We see the leaders God chose, judges, who ruled under Jehovah, the King. Through the lives and work of these judges, we can learn about God's works and ways.

II. Judges 1:27-36. Though Judah, Simeon, and Joseph drove the Canaanites largely out of their territories, the remainder of chapter 1 records the sad failure of the other tribes: Manasseh, Ephraim, Zebulun, Asher, Naphtali, and worst of all Dan.

- A. Verse 27. Beth-Shean = House of Ease. Taanach = Sandy Soil. Dor = Generation. Ibleam = Devouring the People. Megiddo = Place of Crowds. All these failures.
- B. Verse 28. This is what they did to the Gibeonites because of their deception. But now they do the same out of laziness and disobedience!
- C. Verse 29. Gezer = A Portion.
- D. Verse 30. Kitron = Bond. Nahalol = Pasture.
- E. Verses 31-32. Accho = Sand Made Warm by the Heat of the Sun. Zidon = Hunting or Fishing. Ahlab = Fertile Place. Achzib = Deceit. Helbah = Fertile. Aphik = Fortress. Rehob = Open Place.
- F. Verse 33. Beth Shemesh = House of the Sun. Beth-Anath = House of Response.
- G. Verse 34. Dan fails worst of all!
- H. Verse 35. Cheres = The Sun. Aijalon = Field of Deer. Shaalbim = Place of Foxes.
- I. Verse 36. Akrabbim = Ascent of Scorpions. The result: the Israelites are living among the wicked Canaanites, exactly what the LORD did not want to happen!

III. The Angel of the LORD proclaims punishment against them.

- A. Judges 2:1. Gilgal = Rolling. The Angel = the Messenger of the LORD, the Lord Himself, Jesus Christ. Note "I" and "my covenant."
- B. Verse 2. The One Who made a covenant with them reminds them of His commands which they have disobeyed. Note the altars, the worst temptation.
- C. Verse 3. Punishment: they will not be driven out, they will be constant pains, and their gods will be snares. This punishment is the natural result of their own actions.
- D. Verses 4-5. They wept and called the place Bochim = Weepers. The sacrifice was good, but it did not really make up for the disobedience.

IV. A summary of the story of Judges.

- A. Verse 6. This is review of what had happened in Joshua.
- B. Verse 7. The wicked generation that came out of Egypt was followed by the faithful generation who saw the LORD's wonders in the wilderness and served Him. Yet now this generation dies.
- C. Judges 2:8-9. Joshua (Jehovah is the Savior) himself dies. He was of the tribe of Ephraim, and so was buried in Timnath Heres (Abundant Portion) on the north side of Mount Gaash (Quaking).
- D. Verse 10. The next generation after the faithful generation arises. This generation did not know the LORD or His works. This same battle takes place every generation!
- E. Verse 11. "The" evil = idolatry. Ba'als = the master gods or idols.
- F. Verse 12. Due to the unwise policy of the faithful generation, their children, as soon as they were gone, turned to the "practical" idols of the nations living among them.
- G. Verse 13. Ashtaroth = a male phallic carving, served by sleeping with prostitute priests/priestesses underneath it.

H. Verse 14. The LORD became angry and delivered them into the hand (power) of their enemies. Now they could no longer defeat them. Note: the enemies were always there

I. Verse 15. The LORD had sworn = Deuteronomy 28:15, 25.

J. Verse 16. The LORD mercifully raised up judges to rescue them.

V. The book of Judges details the history of Israel between the days of Joshua and the days of Samuel. In this portion, we see that many of the tribes were unfaithful, failing to drive out the wicked nations that were in the land before them and actually making leagues with them instead. Because of their wickedness, the LORD decided not to drive the nations out before them any longer to test them. When the faithful generation died off, their children started worshipping the false gods of these nations. The LORD would then sell them into the hands of their enemies. When He decided to be gracious, He would raise up a judge, who would deliver them all his days. This is the cycle of Judges.