



The Story of God's People Settling For Something Less Then Total Victory

The Book of Joshua chronicles the battles and the division of the land among Israel's 12 tribes---The book covers a period of 25 years history

The book of Judges chronicles the cycle of defeat and restoration of Israel by 12 different judges ---The book covers a period of 400 years of history

The Problem: Joshua's days are numbered, but the job is not finished.

When Joshua was an old man, the Lord said to him, "You are growing old, and much land remains to be conquered. Joshua 13:1

God's testing Israel's future faithfulness after Joshua:

I (God) will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD and walk in it as their forefathers did." 23 The LORD had allowed those nations to remain; he did not drive them out at once by giving them into the hands of Joshua. Judges 2:22,23

Israel fails to heed God's warnings about the pagan nations in their midst:

Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Bethshean and its villages... Judges 1:27

The tribe of Ephraim failed to drive out the Canaanites living in Gezer, so the Canaanites continued to live there among them.³⁰ The tribe of Zebulun failed to drive out the residents of Kitron and Nahalol, so the Canaanites continued to live among them Judges 1:29,30

The tribe of Asher failed to drive out the residents ...³² Instead, the people of Asher moved in among the Canaanites, who controlled the land,...³³ Likewise, the tribe of Naphtali failed to drive out the residents... Instead, they moved in among the Canaanites, who controlled the land. Judges 1:31-33

Key Principal: Victory is not automatic, you must pay attention

What happened to Israel during the times of the Judges?

For your part, you were not to make any covenants with the people living in this land; instead, you were to destroy their altars. But you disobeyed my command. ... So now I declare that I will no longer drive out the people living in your land. Judges 2:2,3

The Israelites ... 12 abandoned the Lord, the God ...worshiping the gods of the people around them... 13 They abandoned the Lord to serve Baal and the images of Ashtoreth. Judges 2:11-13

What to avoid:

1. They forgot the things of God and what He had done for them.

After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the Lord or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel. Judges 2:10

2. They followed their own understanding.

In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes. Judges 21:25

God's response to disobedience:

1. God will discipline those he loves.

Every time Israel went out to battle, the Lord fought against them, causing them to be defeated, just as he had warned. And the people were in great distress. ... Judges 2:15

See Hebrews 12:10,11 & Galatians 6:7,8

2. God will respond mercifully to hopefully restore us.

Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them. Judges 2:18

The Book of Judges is a picture of the necessity of taking God seriously about the enemy of our souls, so we must strive to obey in order to win.