

Judges 1-3

Chapter 1 Record of eight tribes failure to destroy, drive out the Canaanites

v1-20 Judah's failures (Canaanites, Perizzites)

v19 Since the Lord was with them, then if they had faith and looked to God's help they *could have* driven them out. There must be more to the story that is simply not recorded.

v20 sons of Anak = Anakim (Num. 13:33)

* What did God command Israel to do now that they were in Canaan?

* Of what did Joshua warn Israel shortly before his death, in Joshua 23:11-13?

v21 Benjamin's failure (Jebusites)

v22-29 Ephraim & Manasseh (various Canaanite tribes)

v30 Zebulun's failures (various Canaanite tribes)

v31-32 Asher's failures (various Canaanite tribes)

v33 Naphtali's failures (various Canaanite tribes)

v34 Dan's failures (Amorites more determined than Dan)

- If God's enemies are determined to do wrong, but God's people are determined to do right—who will be victorious? What does that tell us about the determination of the tribe of Dan in verse 34?

* Why was God taking this land from the Canaanites and giving it to Israel? (There is more than one answer)

* What did Israel lack, which explains their failure to drive the Canaanites out?

Application Questions

1. When sin remains an ongoing inhabitant in my life, what am I lacking?

2. How do I rid myself of sin, and what will happen if I try to serve God without getting rid of sin?

Chapter 2 Summary of Israel's history leading up to, and under, the judges

v1-5 Consequences of Israel's disobedience

v1 *I will never break my covenant with you* (similar to Heb. 13:5)

v2 *you have not obeyed my voice*

v3 *I will not drive them out* (v21-22)

v4-5 Israel wept, sacrifices to God but cannot change all consequences

* In Joshua 23:5, Joshua tells Israel that God will drive the other nations out of the land. Why does God not do what He said He would do?

v6-10 Joshua and his generation dies and *another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD...*

- why didn't they know? We are not told the reason, either: they were not taught, they were taught but rejected the teaching, or they were taught and chose to forget what they were taught.

- not mean that *every Israelite* but the majority of them. There was always a faithful minority.

v11-19 The children of Israel did evil, God's general response

- the cycle of Israel under the judges: peace serving God, stray into sin, punished then pleading, God rescued them through judges (back to the beginning).

v20-23 God's immediate response to Israel's evil

v20 Israel has transgressed the covenant, leaving God to choose whether or how long to remain within that relationship. He is free and just to leave them.

v22 *that through them I may test Israel*

Application Questions

Match the four general events which occur repeatedly between God and Israel in the book of Judges, introduced in chapter two:

2:6-7

Peace serving God

2:10-13

God raises up a judge to rescue

2:14-15

Forget God and return to sin

2:16, 18

Punished by God and eventually plead to God for help

Verses 7-10 serve as a warning to whom today? What does it warn them of?

Chapter 3

v1-4 God teaches Israel war and faith

- Israel could have lived in Canaan in more peace if they had been willing to fight the first fights. They settled for what seemed to be an easier way (stop wars sooner, collect constant tribute)

v5-11 The Sin & Rescue Cycle begins: Othniel (Judah; Num. 13:6)

v5-7 Israel continues violating their covenant with God by marrying those whom God had forbidden and following false gods (Deut. 7:1-6)

* What is the connection between Israel marrying with these tribes and Israel serving false gods?

* Did this teach Israel “once and for all” not to intermarry? Explain your answer and what this tells us Israel failed to do at the time of your example.

* When an Israelite intermarried, who was involved in that sinful decision?

v8-11 God punishes them, Israel cried to God, God sends a judge to rescue them, and they serve God while this judge is alive (40 years) [Learn more about Othniel in 1:13. His life is blessed by his faith and wife]

v12-30 The Sin & Rescue Cycle continues: Ehud (Benjamin)

v12-14 return to sin and 18 years of punishment

v15-30 Ehud assassinates Eglon and leads Israel to victory

* What apparently was and was not happening during the years of peace (v11, 30)?

v31 Shamgar

Textual and Application Questions

Name some teachings from Christ concerning marriage today. Then discuss what must happen to avoid repeating the failures of the Israelites.

Name something which contributed to Israel’s habit of forsaking God. Since “these things were written for our admonition,” what should we learn (1 Cor. 10:11)?