

Lesson 10 – Judges 2-3:6

Text: Judges 2-3:6

Key Passages:

- Judges 2:10-11 – Israel forgot about the Lord’s works and began to worship idols.
- Judges 2:13-19 – Israel’s cycle of sin during this time period is summarized in these verses.

Main Storyline:

At some point prior to Joshua’s death, an Angel of the Lord had spoke to all Israel. Through the angel, God rebuked Israel for associating with the Canaanites and for not breaking down their idols. He reminded them that He had kept his part of the covenant completely. God promised that, as a result of their disobedience, He would not continue to drive the people out of Canaan. The Canaanites would be thorns in their sides and their gods would be a snare to them. When the Israelites heard all of this, they cried and named the place where they heard the angel “Bochim,” which means “weepings.” They sacrificed to the Lord, and then Joshua dismissed the people to their lands.

It seems that the people repented of their sins and followed the Lord while Joshua and the elders were still alive (they had personally seen the great works of the Lord). However, once they and all that generation had died, another generation arose which did not know the Lord nor the work that He had done for Israel. Therefore, they stopped serving God, and began to serve other gods.j

Because they abandoned Him, who had brought them out of Egypt and had done so much for them and their fathers, God became furious and punished them. He allowed other nations to come into Canaan and plunder their lands and possessions. He did not fight for Israel anymore, and as a result, they could not stand against their enemies all around them. In fact, whenever they went out to battle, the Lord was against them, just as He had promised so many times in the past.

The Israelites began to suffer greatly because of what God had allowed to happen to them. They cried out to God and asked Him to deliver them from their enemies. God was moved with compassion for them, and He appointed judges as leaders to deliver them from their enemies. The Lord was with the judges, allowing them to be victorious over their enemies. For a time, the Israelites turned from their wickedness and began to serve the Lord again. However, when the judges died, the Israelites became wicked again and reverted to their old ways, even acting more corruptly than they had before.

This process repeated over and over, yet the Israelites never learned from their mistakes. They continued to disobey God until He would punish them by allowing their enemies to subdue them. When the suffering became too much, they would cry out to God and turn from their wickedness until He supplied a deliverer in the form of a judge. The judge would then deliver Israel and try to teach them not to act so wickedly. Unfortunately, they never listened, and once the judge was dead, they returned to their wicked ways just as before.

As a result of all of this, God decided that he would not drive out any more of the nations from the land of Israel. The nations that remained after Joshua died would continue to remain in Canaan in order to test Israel. God wanted to see if the people would obey Him in the face of wars and battles, or if they would turn from His commandments. The Israelites did not pass the test: they began to intermarry with the Canaanites, which led to all kinds of godlessness, to be described in Judges.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) We must learn God’s mighty works; they are foundational to faith and obedience (Psalm 78:7).
- 2.) If we fail to obey God, He will carry out his promises of punishment against us (Psalm 28:1-5).
- 3.) If we are willing to repent of our wickedness, God will forgive and help us out of sin.
- 4.) The Lord will test us with difficulties in order to see if we will obey Him when it is hard.